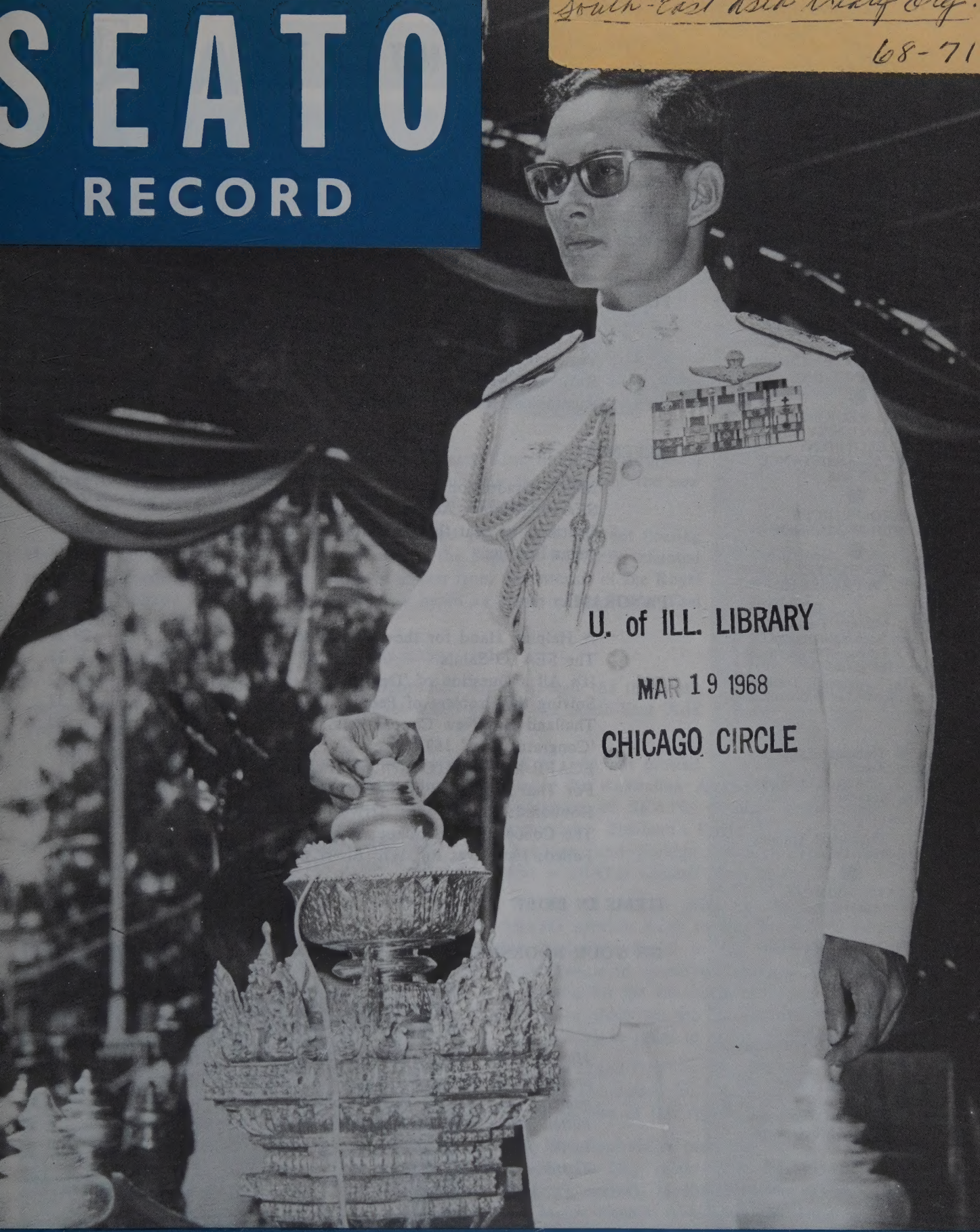
South-East Asia Treaty Org.
68-71

SEATO RECORD



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October, 1967

- GALA DAY FOR SEATO
- MILITARY ADVISERS MEET
- A HELPING HAND FOR HILL PEOPLE

SEATO RECORD

SEATO RECORD features significant events in South-East Asia, as well as activities of the Organization and its member nations. It reports statements which reflect attitudes or policies related to SEATO's role as a defensive organization.

SEATO PROJECTS:

SEATO GRADUATE SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

●

SEATO REGIONAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTRE

●

SEATO VEHICLE REBUILD WORKSHOP

●

SEATO SKILLED LABOUR PROJECTS:

Thailand —

SEATO Military Technical Training School, Bangkok.
SEATO Teacher Development Centre, Bangkok.
SEATO Vocational Training Centres located in 19 provincial cities.

Pakistan —

SEATO Technical Training Centre, Dacca.
SEATO Technical Training Centre, Karachi.

Philippines —

SEATO Vocational Training Centre, Marikina.

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SEATO MEDICAL PROJECTS:

Thailand —

SEATO Medical Research Laboratory, Bangkok.
SEATO Clinical Research Centre, Bangkok.

Pakistan —

Pakistan-SEATO Cholera Research Laboratory, Dacca.

●

SEATO CULTURAL PROGRAM:

Under-Graduate Scholarships, Post Graduate Scholarships, Fellowships, Professorships.

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COVER PICTURE:

His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand, who presided over the opening ceremony of the new SEATO Headquarters on September 8, is shown here about to press the button which unveiled the large blue SEATO emblem fixed to the front of the building, at the same time releasing a cluster of colourful balloons.

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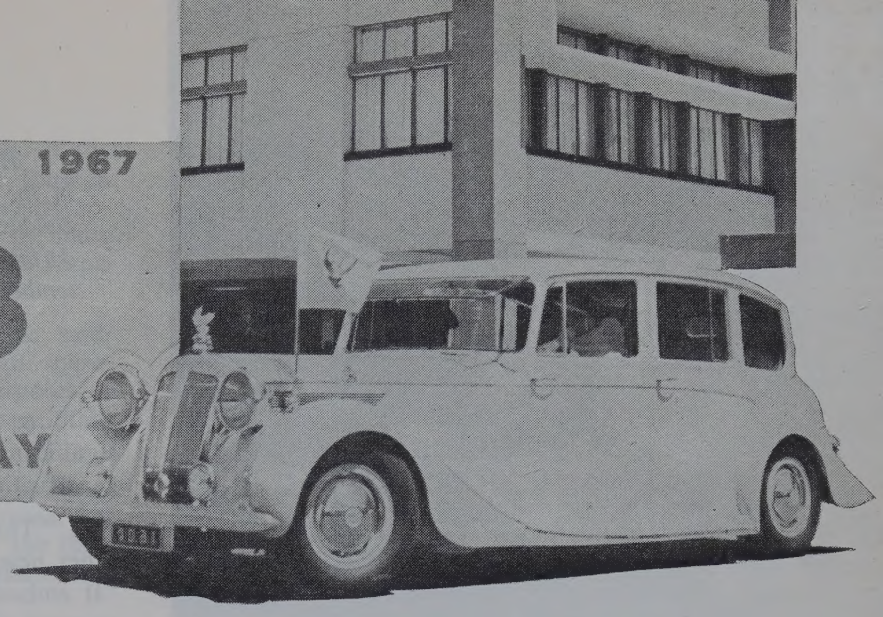
GALA DAY FOR SEATO

SEPTEMBER 1967

8

FRIDAY



ON THE MORNING of September 8, His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand pressed a small white button unveiling the plaque of the new SEATO Headquarters building on Sri Ayudhya Road, Bangkok.

At the same moment a gay cluster of blue and yellow balloons went floating skywards, while a chapter of monks, headed by the Supreme Patriarch, chanted stanzas of benediction, their voices rising in unison from the interior of the Royal Pavilion. Suddenly the roar of jet engines was heard as planes of the Royal Thai Air Force flew past in formation.

- **Dedication of the new headquarters building**
- **Observance of the Organization's 13th anniversary**

Thus was SEATO's new home formally inaugurated.

But it was also a day of double importance, for it marked the thirteenth anniversary of the signing of the Manila Pact which created the South-East Asia Treaty Organization.

His Majesty arrived for the dedication ceremonies at 10 a.m., and was greeted by SEATO Secretary-General, Lieut. Gen. Jesus M. Vargas; the Australian Ambassador, A.H. Loomes, Chairman of SEATO Council Representatives for September; Thailand's Prime Minister, Thanom Kittikachorn; and Foreign Minister, Thanat Khoman, who is SEATO Council Member for Thailand.

His Majesty The King is pictured here with the Secretary-General of SEATO, Lieut. Gen. Jesus M Vargas, cutting with a pair of gold scissors the silk tape spanning the entrance to the new headquarters building.

In his address prior to the unveiling of the SEATO emblem fixed to the front of the building, His Majesty referred to the firm objective of the Organization to preserve "security against external aggression for the advancement of this region," and its aim to accelerate the "progressive development in various fields in order to maintain regional stability."

He hoped that the new premises "will stand as a lasting foundation for the security and well-being of the peoples of this region for years to come."

The flag-raising ceremony, a regular feature of the SEATO Day celebrations, was held before His Majesty's arrival, in the presence of Gen. Vargas and Major General Abhichart Dhiradhamrong, Chief, SEATO Military planning Office, together with the Council Representatives, Military Advisers and Mili-

His Majesty The King signs the visitors' book in the office of the Secretary-General during a conducted tour of the new headquarters building during the official opening ceremony on September 8.

●

tary Advisers Representatives from the eight member nations.

This year, for the first time, the raising of the SEATO flag was performed to the tune of the SEATO Salute, composed by Mr. Kenneth Duncan, SEATO Director of Research. The stirring melody making its debut added still more to the pageantry of the impressive occasion.

Members of the Privy Council, Cabinet Ministers, members of the Diplomatic Corps and other Thai and foreign dignitaries were among the hundreds of guests attending the function. Groups of people passing by on busy Sri Ayudhya Road halted and stood watching the proceedings from the pavement in front of the flag-bedecked premises.

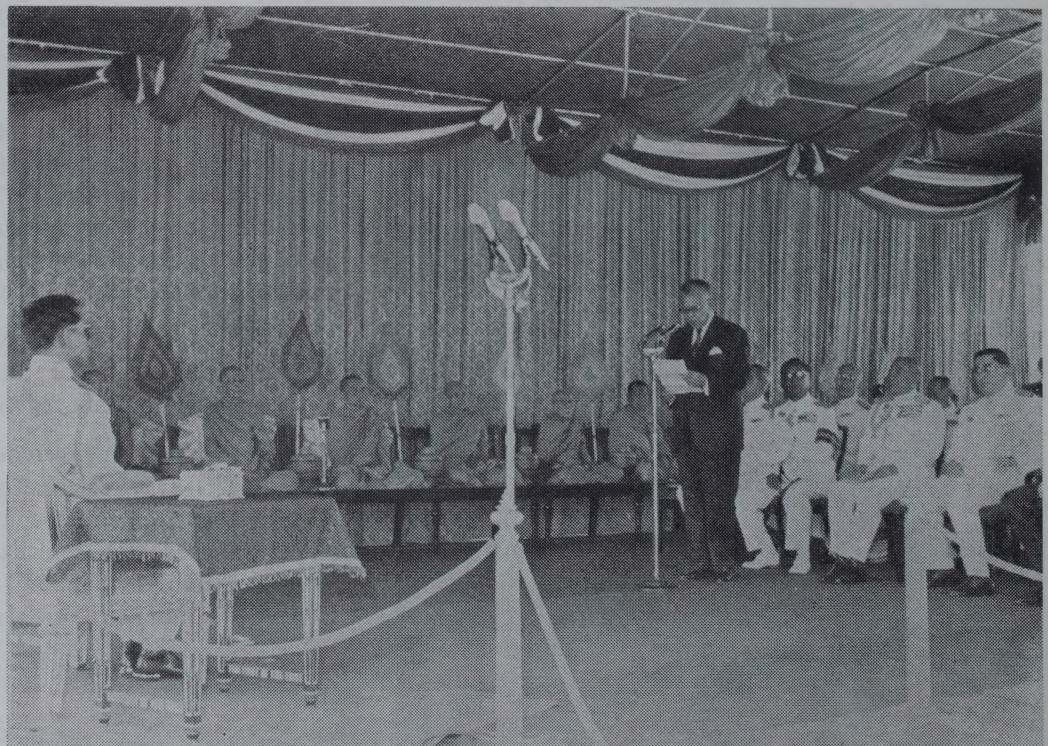
In his report to His Majesty on the new building, General Vargas emphasized its symbolic significance as well as reviewing the history of its construction.

"This Headquarters building is not merely another new building for Bangkok's skyline," he said. "It embodies an ideal not simply of the oneness of purpose of the member nations, but above all of the strength and the permanence of the Organization. It represents the proven efficacy of this alliance — of free peoples of like minds and common values, Asians and non-Asians, in and out of the Treaty Area — as a deterent to aggression in this part of the world."

Threat increases

The report by H.E. Thanat Khoman, who spoke after General Vargas, stressed the fact that the threat of Communist aggression in this area "has neither disappeared nor even diminished but has actually increased," and that this tends to "confirm the usefulness of the role that SEATO can and should be able to play as an organization set up to deter aggression."

Pointing out that the indirect methods currently adopted by the aggressors differ somewhat from acts



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The Secretary-General of SEATO, Lieut. Gen. Jesus M. Vargas, is seen here reading his speech before His Majesty The King during the opening ceremony of the new headquarters on September 8.

of open aggression envisaged by the founders of the Organization thirteen years ago, the Thai Foreign Minister suggested that "appropriate adjustments appear to be called for, if its members were to make the Organization truly effective against diverse forms of encroachments and external interference."

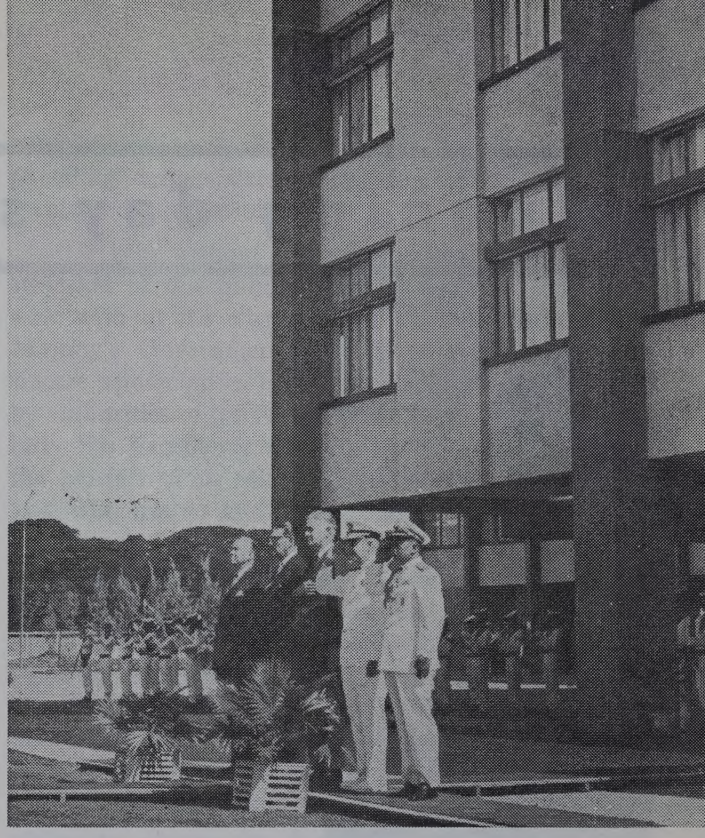
"Let the building dedicated today," he said, "stand as a symbol that member countries still maintain their abiding faith in the aims and purposes of the Organization to preserve peace and security in the region."

SEATO's role as a defensive alliance, designed to help maintain peace and stability in the area, was described in the report to His Majesty by the third speaker of the day, the Australian Ambassador Mr. A.H. Loomes.

"We do not have any desire to threaten any country outside our membership," he said, "or to influence the actions or policies of other countries except in one respect—that no aggressive country should dare to interfere with the independence of any country in the Treaty Area."

It was important, Mr. Loomes said, to consider what significance SEATO has had for this area during

The Chief, Military Planning Office, Major General Abhichart Dhiradhamrong, explains a point to His Majesty The King during a conducted tour of the new SEATO Headquarters building. On the right are The Prime Minister, Field Marshal Thanom Kittikachorn, and Chief aide-de-camp to the King, Admiral Prince Diskul.



The United States Ambassador, Mr. Graham Martin (centre) stands to attention as his country's national anthem is played during the flag-raising ceremony on September 8.

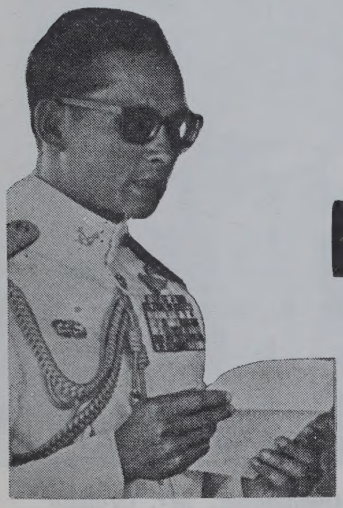
the past 13 years. There had been some criticism of the Organization's work in the past, he said, and from time to time the question had been asked "What has SEATO done?" "But," added Mr. Loomes, "an important fact about SEATO is not what it has done: its importance lies in what it has prevented."

After unveiling the emblem, His Majesty cut the ribbon across the main entrance beside which is fixed a brass plaque engraved with the names of senior SEATO officials and representatives and bearing the words: 'This building is dedicated to the security, peace and freedom of the peoples of South-East Asia.'

After cutting the ribbon His Majesty was conducted on a tour of the building and later was introduced to Directors and other senior SEATO officials in the main lobby of the building. Salutes, handshakes and bows followed before His Majesty departed amidst a flourish of trumpets in the stately Royal Car. Guests soon dispersed, marquees and decorations were quickly dismantled and SEATO once again settled down to its routine work.

But the sense of excitement remained, the feeling that this was indeed a very special day in the history of SEATO; a heightened awareness that the new headquarters building was, as Mr. Loomes had said that morning: "A symbol of our unity of purpose, and of the permanence, stability and strength of our Alliance."

Opening day speeches



H.M. THE KING

"We are pleased to participate in the celebration of the thirteenth anniversary of the South-East Asia Treaty Organization as well as the dedication ceremony of the Organization's Headquarters which member nations have jointly established on Thai soil.

SEATO was set up with the firm objective of preserving security against external aggression for the advancement of this region, and with the aim of accelerating its progressive development in various fields in order to maintain regional stability. Concious of the Organization's purpose, the member countries have endeavoured to contribute to the effective functioning of the Orgaization and to co-operate in bringing about significant progress in economic development and social welfare.

Now that the construction of the SEATO Headquarters has been completed, it is expected that the work of the Organization will achieve further progress. As the auspicious hour has arrived, we shall perform the dedication ceremony in the hope that these premises will stand as a lasting foundation for the security and well-being of the peoples of this region for years to come. We wish all of you who are present here today happiness and prosperity.

SECRETARY GENERAL OF SEATO

"May it please Your Majesty, we are gathered here today, the thirteenth anniversary of the signing in Manila of the South-East Asia Collective Defence Treaty, to inaugurate our new headquarters building. And we are very sensible of the great honour which Your Majesty has bestowed on us in most graciously presiding at this morning's ceremonies.

This headquarters building is not merely another new building for Bangkok's skyline. It embodies an ideal not simply of the oneness of purpose of the member nations, but above all of the strength and the permanence of the Organization. It represents the proven efficacy of this alliance — of free peoples of like minds and common values, Asians and non-Asians, in and out of the Treaty Area — as a deterrent to aggression in this part of the world. For all it stands for, I consider it only fitting and proper that the SEATO Headquarters is now permanently associated with the beautiful metropolis of Bangkok and with the fast-growing nation of Thailand.

Detailed plans for this building were drawn in 1961 and 1962 by architects of the Department of Public and Municipal Works of the Royal Thai Government, with the assistance of consultants provided by the Governments of the United Kingdom and the United States. These were approved by Member Governments on September 2, 1964. Six days later, on the

tenth anniversary of the signing of the Manila Pact, Your Majesty most graciously presided over the ceremonies of the laying of the foundation stone.

Work on the site began shortly afterwards, and in April 1965 main contracts for the construction and equipping of the new building were signed as follows: construction and electrical works, Ohbayashi-Gumi Ltd; air-conditioning, F.E. Zuellig; lifts, International Engineering Company, Ltd; and telephone system, Philips Electrical Company (Thailand). Other contracts were entered into later, such as those with Chada Partnership for furniture.

Functional design

This new headquarters building, completed at a cost roughly within the figure of one million United States dollars, agreed upon almost four years ago, is simple and functional in design. It combines convenience, utility and dignity, and is expected adequately to meet the requirements, current and foreseeable, for both the Secretariat-General and the Military Planning Office. The central block rises to a height of five floors of office space. The floor area, including the separate cafeteria building, is some eight thousand square metres, and the site itself, so generously provided by Your Majesty's Government, covers a good 30 rai.

At this juncture, I should like to offer, on behalf of the Organization, our most profound gratitude to the Member Governments which, in addition to sharing the cost of the building, have made distinctive contributions to its decoration and furnishing, such as panelling, carpets, items of painting and sculpture, and specialized equipment.

It goes without saying, of course, that the construction of this building would not have been possible without the wholehearted co-operation of Your Majesty's Government. I wish to express our most sincere appreciation of the assistance given to SEATO by authorities of the Royal Thai Government, particularly His Excellency the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the officials of his Ministry, the Lord Mayor of Bangkok, who has so kindly undertaken to landscape and beautify the premises almost without cost to SEATO, and the Director-General of Public and Municipal Works whose department has been continuously associated with the design and construction of this building from the beginning. I wish to thank as well our principal contractors, Ohbayashi-Gumi, for their substantial contributions to the building beyond those stipulated in their contract.

Above all, and in conclusion, the Organization wishes to express its deepest sense of gratitude to Your Majesty for your gracious presence at this ceremony of dedication and of formal opening. May it please Your Majesty, it is now my pleasure to call, firstly, on His Excellency the Council Member for Thailand and Minister of Foreign Affairs to speak on behalf of the host country, and secondly, on our host this morning, the Chairman of the SEATO Council Representatives, to speak on behalf of the Member Nations.'

FOREIGN MINISTER OF THAILAND

'May it please Your Majesty, I am certain that I voice the sentiment of all of us who are present here who feel deeply honoured and grateful that Your Majesty has so kindly consented to grace this auspicious occasion with Your presence.

Today is the thirteenth anniversary of the South-East Asia Treaty Organization which was founded at the critical time of history of the region when Communist forces scored a major victory in former French Indochina and threatened to overrun neighbouring countries thus placing the entire region under their ruthless control.

Aware of the grave threat to its existence, the Thai nation took part in the establishment of SEATO and successive governments have supported its objective and functions. This threat has neither disappeared nor even diminished but has actually increased as can be seen in the unremitting aggression against the Republic of Viet-Nam and the Kingdom of Laos, and

the wanton acts of terrorism and depredation committed by the Communist expansionists against other peace-loving countries in South-East Asia under the guise of "War of National Liberation." Thailand has not escaped such evil design. These happenings tend to confirm the usefulness of the role that SEATO can and should be able to play as an organization set up to deter aggression. It is true however, that the indirect methods and insidious techniques currently adopted by the aggressors differ somewhat from acts of open or direct aggression envisaged by the founders of the Organization thirteen years ago.

Abiding faith

Appropriate adjustments appear to be called for, if its Members are to make the Organization truly effective against diverse forms of encroachments and external interference.

Despite the divergencies that may exist in the policies of SEATO members owing to a number of reasons, the evidence of a measure of agreement as is shown today in the concrete and material form of a building, seems to indicate the possibility for future joint endeavours.

Let the building dedicated today stand as a symbol that member countries still maintain their abiding faith in the aims and purposes of the Organization to preserve peace and security in this region. For we all are convinced that the shattering by Asian Communist powers of the policy of peaceful coexistence and its substitution by forceful coercion and the ensuing disturbances of peace in this area would ultimately disrupt world peace in general.

Although a greater measure of consensus is not easily attainable among member countries in the discharge of their obligations to uphold the accepted aims and purposes of the Organization, the existence of the new headquarters building to which each and all of us have willingly subscribed our shares would appear to warrant the conclusion that each and everyone of us still share the feeling that there are benefits to be derived from our respective participation in the Organization. For otherwise there would seem to be no good reasons for the contributions all of us have made to the cost of this building.

As far as Thailand is concerned, we are of the opinion that SEATO definitely has a useful role to play as a deterrent to the aggressive forces if it is imbued with a deeper sense of unity and common purpose. On the other hand, Thailnd cannot sit idly by watching the problems of readjustments and other difficulties with which the Organization and its members are confronted.

No doubts

As a necessary supplement to the effectiveness and usefulness of collective defence efforts Thailand, together with other free countries of the region which have no lingering doubts as to where their vital interests lie, have organized independent regional associations for mutual co-operation based on mutual self-help and equal partnership. By engaging in such joint undertakings, it is Thailand's hope that she will be better able to serve the cause of peace and to contribute to the stability and progress of South-East Asia, which in turn will benefit the world at large.

May Your Majesty's presence today augur well for the successful mission of this Organization in the discharge of its responsibility for the peace and well-being of the millions of our respective peoples.

THE AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR

May it please Your Majesty, this is an important day for SEATO. My colleagues and I are particularly honoured that Your Majesty has been graciously pleased to be present with us this morning to join us in this celebration and to inaugurate our new headquarters. Your Majesty's presence is another indication of the significance which the Royal Thai Government attaches to the Organization, the significance of which we see represented also by the fine building before us.

For the first time, SEATO is taking possession

of its own headquarters building, which has been designed for the specific purpose of meeting administrative and other needs of the Secretariat-General and the Military Planning Office of the Organization. It is a fine building, and the Secretary-General has already provided us with an eloquent account of the story of its construction. I should like to add my tribute, on behalf of the Council Representatives, to those which have already been expressed by the Secretary-General to the designers and contractors.

I wish also to express the deep appreciation of the Council Representatives to the Royal Thai Government for the co-operation which it has so generously and freely given in making the construction of this building possible and indeed for all the other generous assistance which it has, as host country, given over the years to our Organization.

The role of SEATO

SEATO Day this year marks the thirteenth anniversary of the signing of the South-East Asia Collective Defence Treaty in Manila. It is appropriate that we should pause each year to remind ourselves of this anniversary, and to consider what significance SEATO has had for the South-East Asia area in the past thirteen years. SEATO is a defensive alliance, designed to insure the integrity of its member countries in the area, and indeed to help to maintain peace and stability in South-East Asia. There has been some criticism of the Organization's work, and from time to time the question is asked what has SEATO done? An important fact about SEATO is not what it has done; its importance lies in what it has prevented.

A defensive alliance stands ready at all times to resist the incursions of others. We do not have any desire to threaten any country outside our membership, or to influence the actions or policies of other countries except in one respect — that no aggressive country should dare to interfere with the independence of any country in the Treaty Area.

Free from threats

We are determined — as determined as we were in 1954 — to maintain the freedom of these countries. We are determined also that the future prosperity and progress of the South-East Asian area lies in the maintenance of peace and stability, so that all peoples may give atttention to their own betterment without fear of threats from outside. The purpose of SEATO is today, as it has always been, to try to help to bring this about.

And of course the Organization has not restricted itself solely to military questions in its anxiety to see South-East Asia prosper. We all recognise that in the pursuit of our objectives we must give consideration to the economic, cultural and social problems of the region, and ways to overcome them. We, as an Organization, do not command the means for any large-scale or spectacular programmes of development. There are already other Organizations who can do this efficiently. But we have always stood ready to make a modest contribution to the progress of the area in any field where we have seen a need which others have not been able to fulfil.

There is no necessity for me to elaborate on this point, because everyone here today is aware of various institutions in which SEATO has played a constructive part: the Graduate School of Engineering here in Bangkok, which we are about to launch on an independent road of full service to all Asian countries as the Asian Institute of Technology; the Medical Research Laboratory and the Clinical Research Centre within a mile of us here; further away, for example, the Pakistan-SEATO Cholera Research Laboratory at Dacca, which has played such a useful role in fighting the scourge of cholera. This is a continuing process: we have at present under consideration several requests for assistance, not only in the field of economic development related to national security but also in wider economic and cultural fields.

Profound effects

The Communist threat to the Treaty Area remains a serious one, and the outcome of the struggle to combat aggression, both overt and by subversion, will have the most profound effects in Asia and indeed throughout the world. Members of SEATO have a prime role to play in this struggle, and we cannot afford to fail. The aim of our Organization is peace, in which we can develop the vast natural resources which we possess, and in which we can live the kind of lives we wish to lead. It is our fervent hope that aggressors will cease to try to impose their will upon us, and will learn that aggression will not be tolerated and will not succeed.

The fine new building which will now be our headquarters should, I believe, be regarded as a symbol of our unity of purpose, and of the permanence, stability and strength of our Alliance.

I now have the honour to invite Your Majesty to perform the opening ceremonies, inaugurating the new SEATO Headquarters building.

GOODWILL MESSAGES

from statesmen of member nations

——— . . . on SEATO's thirteenth birthday

AUSTRALIA ——— *P.M.C. Hasluck, Minister of External Affairs*

"Today is the thirteenth anniversary of the signing of the South-East Asia Collective Defence Treaty in Manila on September 8, 1954.

During these 13 years, we have together built up an organization and tradition of mutual support which have served well, and will continue to serve as a shield against aggression. Among the member States there has been constant and patient planning and co-operation aimed at a collective, and therefore a more effective response.

This spirit of co-operation is symbolized in the new SEATO Headquarters building in Bangkok, which is officially opened today. The building will stand as a reminder of what has already been achieved and of the need for continuing close co-operation in the years ahead.

The collective defence of South-East Asia, which is the basic and original purpose of SEATO, is important not only for the security of the Treaty Area itself, but for the security of the world as a whole. Awareness of this has led Australia, together with other nations, to respond to requests by the Government of South Viet-Nam, for military assistance to help defend South Viet-Nam against aggression, and to deter such aggression in the future. Without this determined and persistent effort to provide strong collective security, the peace, stability and economic progress of the Treaty Area cannot be assured.

As I emphasized at the SEATO Council Meeting in Washington this year, South-East Asia is a region of unbounded opportunities. These opportunities can only by fulfilled if countries in the region co-operate to further their individual and collective efforts towards economic progress and social well-being. Through its economic and cultural programmes, SEATO is one of the organizations assisting towards these ends. For its part, Australia has established a special SEATO aid programme and is providing economic and technical assistance to the Asian members and to Viet-Nam. This is in addition to aid provided by Australia under the Colombo Plan.

Finally, I should like to reaffirm Australia's willingness and determination to do all in its power to assist in maintaining the security of South-East Asia and upholding the Manila Treaty."

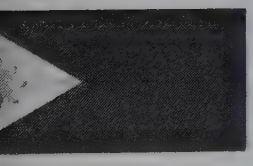
NEW ZEALAND——————*K.J. Holyoake, Prime Minister*

"Today is SEATO Day—the thirteenth anniversary of the signing of the South-East Asia Collective Defence Treaty—and I think it appropriate on this occasion both to reaffirm the New Zealand Government's continuing support for the principles of SEATO, and to express its satisfaction with the development of the Organization's activities—military and civil—over the past year.

In these troubled times of insecurity and aggression in South-East Asia, we should be thankful for the foresight and skill of those who, in 1954, framed the Manila Treaty. SEATO has played, and still plays, an important role in defending freedom in South-East Asia. SEATO is committed to withstand aggression—both overt and subversive. There are still those who are bent on subjecting the countries of South-East Asia to Communist domination. Five SEATO members have responded to the South Vietnamese Government's call for assistance by contributing forces to help her people secure and develop peace and freedom under which they can work out their own future.

Although primarily a defensive alliance, SEATO also recognizes the underlying importance of creating those conditions of economic growth and social well-being which in the final analysis constitute the most effective barrier against subversion. The Secretary-General and the whole of the SEATO Secretariat can take satisfaction from the steady progress made over the past year in the non-military activities of the Organization. This progress is, without doubt, due in large measure to the tireless enthusiasm of General Vargas himself.

It is especially appropriate that the new SEATO Headquarters should be opened on this anniversary. I can assure our SEATO allies of New Zealand's full support for SEATO in the coming year. We look forward to acting as hosts to the thirteenth SEATO Council meeting in Wellington next year."



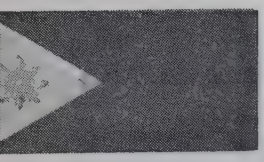
THE PHILIPPINES——————*President Ferdinand E. Marcos*

"It is my special pleasure to convey to the South-East Asia Treaty Organization, on behalf of the Filipino people and government, warmest felicitations and heartiest best wishes for the future on the occasion of the Organization's thirteenth anniversary.

Since the Organization's birth a little over a decade ago, the robust hope that attended its creation has substantially been transformed into various initiatives resulting in the feeling among the treaty nations of greater security and in a brighter outlook for the future.

SEATO remains the lone regional defence instrumentality capable of meeting every threat of aggression from communism, which remains the principal threat to the peace in this region. Aside from this, SEATO has foresightedly engaged in economic, cultural and social projects designed to stabilize the conditions in the area and prime the SEATO nations for enlarged effort toward unity, co-operation, and development.

It is indeed my pleasure to congratulate all of the members of the Treaty, and particularly those men and women who have given SEATO the necessary sinews and motivation for striding forward. May it continue to grow in vitality and goodwill."



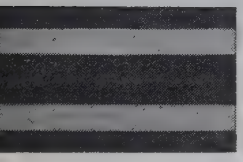
THE PHILIPPINES——————*Narciso Ramos, Secretary of Foreign Affairs*

"The celebration of the thirteenth anniversary of the signing of the Manila Pact is most auspicious, coinciding as it does with the inauguration of the new SEATO building in Bangkok, Thailand.

The erection of the million-dollar SEATO building is an indication that despite the dire prognostications of its critics, SEATO is here to stay. In a deeper sense, it means a reaffirmation of the faith that the member countries of SEATO have reposed in the alliance, a solid evidence indeed of their solemn commitment to stand as one in the defence of freedom in the Treaty Area and in the pursuit of measures to preserve the peace and to promote their individual national progress.

Therefore, even as I felicitate the other members of the alliance on the occasion of the thirteenth anniversary of its founding, I also congratulate His Excellency Lieutenant General Jesus Vargas, Secretary-General of SEATO, his illustrious predecessors and all those who have worked with them to make the construction of the new building possible.

The Philippine Government and people take this opportunity to reiterate their own faith in SEATO. The steady progress that we enjoy today in peace and freedom is attributable in a large measure to the effectiveness of SEATO's role as a vigilant sentinel in the region."



THAILAND——————*Thanat Khoman, Minister of Foreign Affairs*

"Thirteen years ago the Manila Treaty was signed and the South-East Asia Treaty Oaganization was established at the time when expansionist Communist forces threatened to take over South-East Asia.

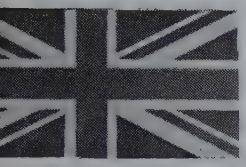
All through the passing years, these forces have not abandoned their objectives, nor have they given up their schemes of domination and subjugation of free Asian peoples. On the contrary, they are resorting to the use of force by waging war in Viet-Nam and committing acts of aggression and depredations in other sectors of South-East Asia. However, because of their own inherent weakness and their comparatively meagre resources, they have shown preference for less costly but more insidious methods of warfare which they euphemistically called "wars of national liberation", or "people's war".

But the camouflage can hardly deceive well-informed world public opinion which can see through their deceptive veil and detect their unremitting rapacity to pursue relentlessly their goal of complete hegemony over the entire region. It should be observed, however, that while thirteen years ago the main Communist threats took the form of open aggression, and the Organization was originally conceived to meet that type of open aggression, changing circumstances now call for appropriate adjustments if we are to remain faithful to our primary aims of ensuring peace and security in the region. It is regrettable that at this critical period the Organization's effectiveness has not been further strengthened by greater unity of efforts and purpose but has indeed suffered from divergent interests and differing outlooks on world affairs. As far as Thailand is concerned, we have adopted a fair and objective attitude enabling us to appreciate SEATO's achievements as well as its shortcomings from which practical lessons may be drawn and more fruitful efforts made to attain our worthy aims of peace, stability and progress.

In this spirit, and bearing in mind the ultimate objectives as mentioned above, Thailand and other countries of the region have together endeavoured to lay a firm foundation for a new society in which nations of the area will contribute to their progressive development on the basis of mutual self-help and equal partnership. In so doing, they intend to assume res-

ponsibility for shaping their own destiny themselves, while co-operating with other well-meaning friends from near and far for mutual benefits and for the purpose of enhancing peace and harmony between nations.

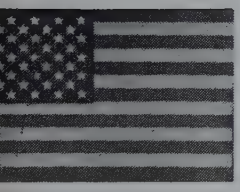
On its thirteenth anniversary, therefore, I take occasion to convey to the Secretary-General of the South-East Asia Treaty Organization my sincere felicitations and best wishes for the future of the Organization, and to renew Thailand's continuing support for its useful purpose and activities."



UNITED KINGDOM——————*George Brown, Foreign Secretary*

"Today I wish to congratulate the South-East Asia Treaty Organization both on its thirteenth anniversary and on the new headquarters in which the Organization is now housed. This excellent building is a reaffirmation of the firm intention of SEATO member countries to continue to fulfil the obligations they first undertook in Manila in 1954. It also represents yet another step forward in the direction of co-operative effort in South-East Asia.

Regional co-operation, the final goal of this effort, can prosper only in an environment of peace and security; SEATO has helped, and still helps, to provide this environment. The British Government intends to play its part towards maintaining stability in the area and is sharing in the common endeavour to develop the immense human and material resources of South-East Asia."



UNITED STATES——————*Dean Rusk, Secretary of State*

"Today, on the thirteenth anniversary of SEATO, I wish to send my greetings and those of President Johnson to SEATO, to its distinguished Secretary-General, Jesus Vargas, and to the member countries and their leaders. SEATO is playing an important role today in our common struggle to bring peace, freedom and progress to Asia. Five SEATO members—Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Thailand and the United States—joined by one non-member, Korea, are giving military assistance to the Vietnamese people in their defence of freedom against Communist aggression. The unity of purpose of these countries sustains our determination that a just peace may be achieved.

The United States was honoured this spring to be host to the twelfth SEATO Council meeting. The final communique of that meeting eloquently noted the vigorous growth of the spirit of co-operation within the Asian and Pacific region, the economic and political progress that has been achieved, and the importance of SEATO in deterring and repelling aggression in all its forms. The meeting reaffirmed the members' resolve to persist tirelessly in the search for a just and lasting peace in Viet-Nam, and expressed disappointment that Hanoi has so far rejected all opportunities open to it for negotiations on a reasonable basis.

The United States considers SEATO to be vital to collective security in the area and is determined to continue to give full support to the Organization in protecting the area against Communist aggression and subversion. There is no more fitting symbol of the unity and resolve of all SEATO member nations than the beautiful new headquarters building in Bangkok that is being dedicated today. I send warmest congratulations on this happy and auspicious event and trust that the work of the Organization will flourish in its new and more ample official home."

SEATO DAY IN THE PHILIPPINES

President Marcos of the Philippines is pictured here at the SEATO Day ceremony in Quezon City seated in front of SEATO member nation Ambassadors. Beside him is General Segundo P. Velasco.

TO the people of the Philippines, SEATO Day always has a special significance. For it was in Manila that the Treaty which brought the alliance into being was signed on September 8, 1954.

This year the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Armed Forces of the Philippines were co-hosts for the ceremonies commemorating the 13th anniversary of SEATO at Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

Guest speaker for the occasion was President Ferdinand E. Marcos who, in a telling address, put forward a strong plea that SEATO play a larger role in "the new field of combat — the area of economic competition."

While recognizing the continuing need for military preparedness, President Marcos stressed the need to "shift emphasis in our preparedness efforts" to build "the economic foundations of our countries and strive to bring about genuine changes in the lives of the people."

New projects

He invited SEATO member nations to invest in the community development and civic action programmes of the Philippine Government, emphasizing that these programmes "could become SEATO projects, in the full sense, with technical and financial participation by all SEATO members."

He also advocated simultaneous programmes in every other Asian member country, "similarly under SEATO financial and technical arrangements."

According to Press accounts, President Marcos, while giving no details concerning these programmes, said in an informal chat with newsmen that he had made a formal proposal to SEATO regarding this matter.

President Marcos was introduced to the gathering at the Camp Aguinaldo celebration of SEATO Day by General Segundo P. Velasco, Chief of Staff, Philippine Armed Forces and Philippine Military Adviser to SEATO.

Salute played

As in Bangkok, the thirteenth anniversary ceremonies at Camp Aguinaldo featured for the first time the playing of the SEATO Salute, an orginal composition by SEATO Director of Research Mr. Kenneth Duncan.

Representatives of SEATO Member Nations attending the function included Mr. Francis Hamilton Stuart (Australia); Mr. Jean Belloir (France); Mr. M.M. Masood (Pakistan); Mr. Jose Ingles (Philippines); Prince Vongsamahip Jayankura (Thailand); Mr. John Mansfield Addis (UK); Mr. William McCormick Blair Jr. (US); and the British Military Attache who represented New Zealand. Mr. S.M.H. Rizvi, SEATO Director of Cultural and Economic Affairs, represented SEATO on behalf of the Secretary General at the ceremonies. Also present was South Vietnamese Ambassador Pham Dang Lam.

Pres. Marcos poses a new challenge

"....I find in this occasion a fresh assurance that the faith which animated the founders of SEATO has lived and doubtless will continue to live. This is the faith that democracy is not only a valid but a necessary condition of national development.

It was to demonstrate that we are capable of supporting that faith with all our resources, with labour and with sacrifice, that SEATO was organized. The results have justified our hopes.

The working principle on which we pinned these hopes was, as you will recall, the principle of preparedness....

The concept of preparedness itself has undergone a process of expansion, growing from the strict military sense in which it was understood in the early years of SEATO to the socio-economic sense that is today generally considered its more important sense.

Today we regard the contentment and well-being of our people as the condition of preparedness that will more surely than military prowess, ensure that the struggle with communism will be won by us. For this reason, at the ministerial conference of SEATO last April, the Philippine Government made manifest its intention to shift emphasis in our preparedness efforts in the task of economic and social development.

SEATO— A SOCIO-ECONOMIC ROLE?

We are determined that civic action work shall be intensified as speedily as possible so as to wage a more effective and meaningful confrontation with communism. We are aware that communism has these past many years transferred the field of combat to the area of economic competition. We are resolved to win this combat.

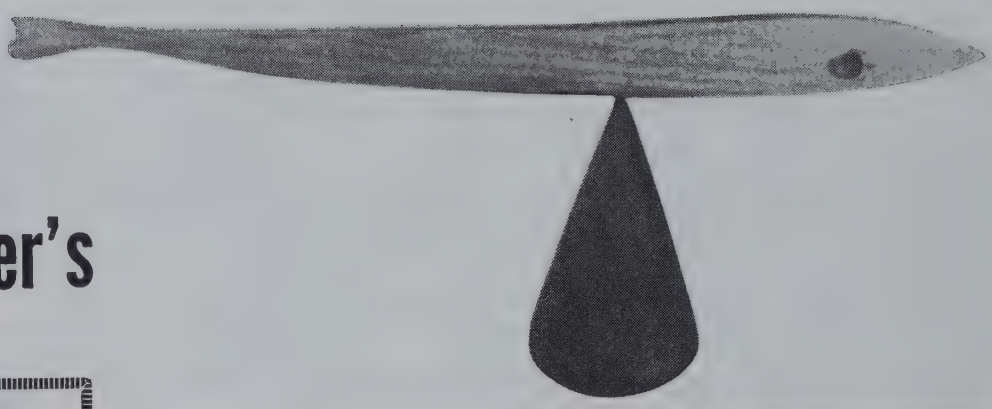
I submit that this is an undertaking in which not only the Philippines but the entire membership of SEATO should become more actively engaged.

In the past, we contributed men and material to regional exercises combining military, naval and aerial operations. This was, of course, in keeping with our concept of military preparedness. I do not think the need for such exercises has disappeared; on the contrary, they must be pursued with the same vigour and enthusiasm by the members of this Organization. But we must now begin to build also the economic foundations of our countries and strive to bring about genuine change in the lives of the people....

The military exercises that have become a traditional feature of SEATO must now have counterparts in the form of economic exercises. To these exercises, I invite all SEATO members. I invite the members of SEATO to invest in the community development and civic action programmes of the Philippine Government. Indeed, these programmes could become SEATO projects, in the full sense, with technical and financial participation by all SEATO members. Simultaneous programmes in every other Asian member country could be undertaken, similarly under SEATO financial and technical arrangements.

This will of course entail a co-operative effort more vigorous and immense than we are now experiencing in economic and social development. But if we are to recognize the validity and necessity of the democratic alternative in Asia, as I am sure we all do, the least SEATO can do is to begin at once to re-organize its resources towards the objective of winning the minds and hearts of the Asian masses."

Keeping alive the woodcarver's art



By C.V. PEDROCHE,
Director of the
National Media
Production Centre
in Manila

MR. PEDROCHE, AN ACCOMPLISHED WRITER AND ARTIST WHO TOOK UP WOODCARVING AS A HOBBY, DESCRIBES HERE SOME OF THE HISTORICAL ASPECTS OF THIS TRADITIONAL PHILIPPINES ART FORM, AND THE IMMENSE SATISFACTION THAT STEMS FROM EXPRESSING ONE'S CREATIVE URGE IN THIS WAY.

THE woodcarver's art in the Philippines reached its greatest and most glorious peak of development in Spanish times among Christian Filipinos, most particularly in the decoration of churches. The Filipino carver learned his art from Chinese artisans and later developed it to a high degree of excellence. Altars of intricately carved wood are still to be found in old churches which are slowly being despoiled by both time and unscrupulous collectors.

Wooden screens and columns and even doors and windows are among the precious legacies our ancient woodcarvers have left us. The woodcarvers of Paete are among the inheritors of this craft who have developed a highly facile method of carving which has resulted in greater production to meet the ever increasing demands of the art market. The Muslim carver of sari-manok has remained true to his ancient craft, refusing to prostitute it for commercial purposes.

But the Ifugaos and other peoples of the Mountain Province, to quote A.V.H. Hartendorp, "have lived in almost total isolation since the time they first pushed up the river valleys from the Gulf of Lingayen, at least 2,000 years ago. During these 20 centuries they carved the eternal hills and brought into existence those magnificent, stone-walled rice-terraces, running from the bottoms of the narrow valleys up toward the tops of the mountains, in valley after valley, achieving this gigantic labour, as an American engineer once marvelled, without surveying instruments, without dynamite, with hardly a metal tool; without anything but man and will-power, industry and imagination. But they also developed the art of carving in small, in wood."

Woodcarving is still a thriving pastime amongst families in the hills of northern Luzon. Here figures are being carved by two craftsmen in a small country village.

In one of my infrequent visits to Baguio, I made a side trip to a woodcarver's village atop a hill and found that the ancient Ifugao artisan is still there — using the same crude implements — incessantly chiselling away. His output has become purely commercial — no longer pure folk-art, for now it has been tainted with the noise and smell of the market place. But some of the subjects are still deeply rooted in mythology.

From my own personal point of view the title of this article could well be "The Figure in the Stone" had I kept faith with that material, for my first attempts at sculpture (carving, anyway) were in stone. Then, too, I recently came across an article on the Eskimo approach to carving.

The ultimate shape

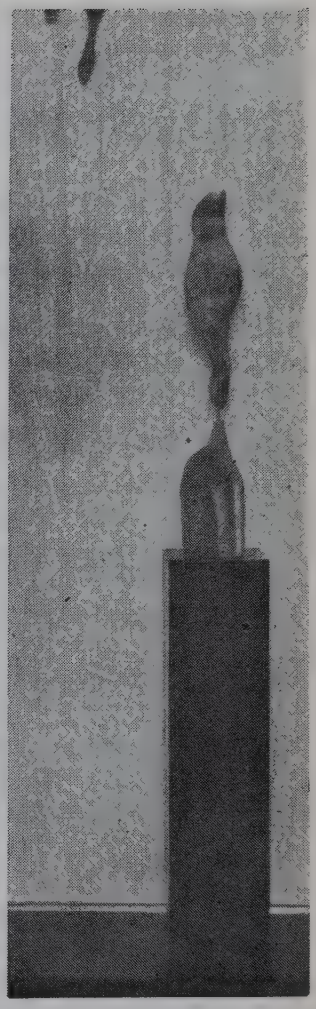
What struck me as curious was the seeming similarity between the Eskimo carver's belief and mine regarding the figure in the stone or wood. In an article I wrote sometime ago, when first I started getting interested in carving, I said that in scraping away at these pieces, I seek the ultimate shape — the form imprisoned within them. When I look at a chunk, so amorphous and challenging, I seem to see a shape struggling to free itself from its confinement and all I have to do is whittle and scrape, patiently and with much love, until I have freed the body, the shape, the final form.

The Eskimo carver believes that the form already exists within the material: he is merely its liberator, not its creator. He can persuade the figure to assume certain attitudes — sometimes it must be persuaded by incantation to reveal itself at all — but, even hidden in the stone, it is as actual as the artist himself.

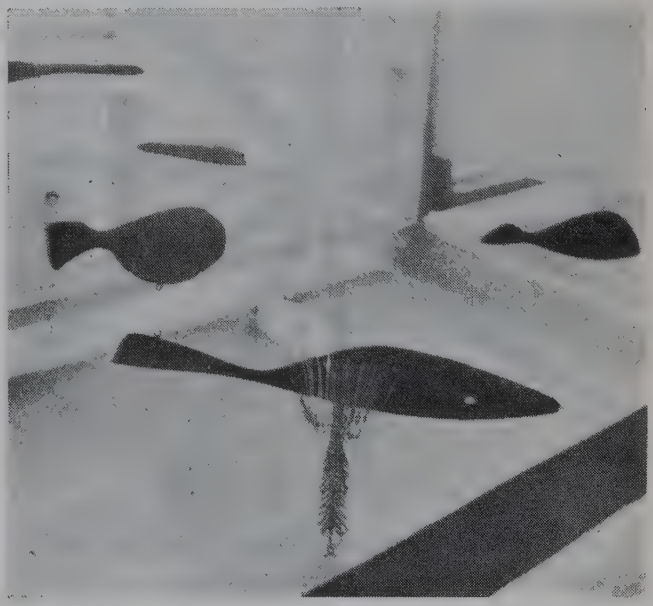
Another seeming similarity lies in this: That when I take a piece of wood and sit down to the task of creation, I don't say I will do a fish — or bird-form. I merely follow whither the chisel is inclined to move after the impact of the hammer on its head. But, as I have so often told my friends, the amazing thing about it is that always the direction this humble tool seems to follow is toward grace, faith, and freedom. The hammer knocks and communicates its message, and the chisel bites into the wood to deliver the impact, scooping its surface or eating mightily into its core.

The Eskimo carver, on the other hand, holds the unworked ivory lightly in his hand, turning it this way and that, and says: Who are you? Who hides there? And then, to himself: Ah, a seal! He rarely sets out, at least consciously, to carve a seal but picks up the ivory, examines it to find its hidden form and, if that is not immediately apparent, carves aimlessly until he sees it, humming or chanting while he works. Then he brings it out: seal, hidden, emerges.

But the similarity between my approach and that of the Eskimo carver is merely on the surface. Examined more closely, one will realize that while the Eskimo believes the form already exists within the material and that he is merely its liberator, not



Mr. Pedroche's birds (right) are almost primitive in their simplicity of outline, and indeed it is this very simplicity of form with its graceful curvatures that imbues his works with a unique quality. So with the austerely graceful lines of his fish carvings (below).



its creator, I believe that the form — while it does exist — is something which I must help create. I do not, like the Eskimo, know what it is that is inside the wood or stone. I merely sort of skirt around it, doodling with the chisel we might say, chopping portions of the material here and there — and if the chisel or the bolo (which I have found handier and have been using more often since recently) chips off a goodly chunk from the material, I say to myself: Well, perhaps it does not belong, anyway. It is not intended to be a part of the final form — nor meant to be immortalized.

Intriguing approach

The Eskimo carver knows what is hiding in the stone — sees it and releases it — through incantation, as we have seen, whenever his art falters or fails him totally. Frankly now, I must say I am intrigued with this kind of approach. Maybe there is truly something to it, I mean. In fact, my whistling might be considered my own kind of incantation, for while I work I whistle — or even talk to myself. Now, usually, my whistling gets out of tune and whenever it does I laugh. I snicker, that is, afraid that if I laugh aloud my family might think I am starting to crack up or something. As in fact they do, since I have taken to this hobby.

There is nothing massive or heavy about my pieces. I seem to be more inclined to light and airy things — like mobiles, for instance. Something light

● *These are letter openers made by Mr. Pedroche of various Philippine hardwoods.*

Although using a number of modern aids — such as sandpaper or even emery wheels — these Filipino girls still practise the traditional wood-carvers' art as they fashion replicas of men in small canoes.

●

and graceful, constantly moving or changing position. I decided this as soon as I knew I was going to take up carving as an active hobby. Perhaps it was because I lacked the tools to embark on real-to-goodness sculpting. A friend from abroad sent me a set of iron tools good for small-scale stone-carving, but since I have already turned to wood, I find the common chisel and the bolo handier for my purpose.

No training needed

It amazes me sometimes to realize that one can actually set out on an artistic adventure such as this without any formal schooling or training. It might be asked in my case: Did I have any suspicion that someday I would turn to carving — just as I did when I took up writing long ago? I must say that if I had I would have taken to this craft instead of writing — in which I can never hope to excel. Do I then think that I can excel in this new-found art? I don't think I can — but that is not the point. The point is that I think sculpting is more deeply engrossing than the writing of fiction though many fellow fictionists will naturally disagree with me.

I am not trying to say that fiction writing is not satisfying but sculptors will tell you that to be able to carve a figure out of an inanimate material is nearer God's truth — and their proof is solid, too.

I agree with them, for once you have released the form from the inert material you feel that you have created a living thing — a tangible proof of power in your hands.

I prefer, as I have already said, light airy objects. Balance and grace I want to achieve above all.

And where do I get my wood? From any likely place. Once, walking down a stretch of road I stopped under the shade of a little store near where a man was chopping kindling wood. I asked if I may have a few pieces which I found to have beautiful and deeply tinted grains. In fact, I bought in the end a whole bundle and was my wife surprised when I returned home. She thought I had bought her the kindling for her cookout! As it turned out the kindling wood was of tamarind which I found to have a core as hard and tough as kamagong. I developed big blisters on my palm trying to chop and shape up a number of abstract forms out of the kindling wood. It was hard work but very satisfying. The Rotating Fish, as I call one of the pieces from this bundle, is one of my favourites.

Kamagong, of course, is beautiful wood and I have produced quite a few unconventional canes from a big piece which a friend once gave me, along with one abstraction.

The locust tree, or acacia, is another wood which is enchanting to work on. The Dodo is this kind of wood. Likewise most of the fish forms in my mobiles.

I suppose there are numerous other kinds of wood suitable for carving. In fact I feel that any kind at all will do. I once picked from the muddy backyard of my house a piece of already rotting pinewood — which used to be the bottom of a beer case. If was soggy but I could see through its coat of mud some possibilities in it. I dried it up and started doodling with it. Finally it began to take shape. Lo — it was a bird! It now decorates our ancient piano. And to think that once it was a slippery muddy piece left alone to rot completely in the backyard.

Is this then what we might call art or is it just one of those things? Whatever it is I have found enjoyment in my work. My pieces, in whatever shape they might be, have afforded me with moments of grace and peace in their creation — solace, to be sure — and release from the tensions of modern living. When I look at my creations — or even when still at work on them — I feel as though I were surrounded by a quiet area of order and loveliness.

X Elections in S. Viet-Nam X

THE SUMMING UP...

U.S. officials see the 83 per cent turnout of registered voters in the recent South Vietnamese elections as a significant indication of popular participation in the affairs of government.

They recalled the September 4 comment by the State Department that people of Viet-Nam have made their own choice, are determining their own future, and that an elected government constitutionally based, is a major step forward.

In a broad review of the September 3 balloting, for which complete unofficial returns of the presidential totals have been posted, State Department officials discussed the election in these terms:

THE WINNER

Of a total population estimated at 17,500,000, about half were of the legal voting age of 18 or above. Of these, about 70 per cent were registered. The 83 per cent of these who voted can be compared with the 62 per cent who voted in the 1964 U.S. presidential election, and the 63.5 per cent of 1960.

Present figures show only three per cent of spoiled ballots, a figure that appears about normal for a free election.

The percentage of 34.8 achieved by the leading ticket of Chief of State Thieu and Premier Ky, while not a majority, appears to be about what could be expected in a multi-party election in any country.

RUNNER - UP

Ultimate validation of the election remains. These are procedures for challenging the election. Charges of irregularities must be filed by September 8. The Constitution provides that the Constituent Assembly must consider them by October 2.

The observers from a number of countries, including the United States, who were on hand undoubtedly will speak for themselves. Observations of U.S. officials conform to those of most observers that the elections were generally free and fair.

Viet Cong interference accounted for about 400 persons killed and 710 kidnapped in the month from August 3 to September 4, against a monthly average for the first half of the year of 230 killed and about 300 kidnapped.

In the week preceding the election, there were 17 killed and 401 kidnapped. On election day, in incidents apparently connected directly with the balloting, 28 were killed.

On the matter of what effect the election might have on prospects for peace, it is well-known that there is a strong desire for peace in South Viet-Nam, a desire the United States shares. However, there remains the factor of what effect, if any, the elections will have on attitudes in Hanoi.

If establishment of a valid elected government will lead Hanoi toward co-operation in seeking peace, there is no sign of it to date. On the contrary, Hanoi has joined with the National Liberation Front and Moscow in denouncing the election.

The search for peace will continue, rather than being discontinued until the new government is formed. General Thieu, it should be noted, remains Chief of State in the present government until he becomes President of a new government.

As to General Thieu's earlier statement that he would consider asking for a pause in the bombing, the United States will take definite steps on such a proposal.

One of the surprises of the election was a strong showing by Truong Dinh Dzu, a lawyer who is an outspoken critic of the Government and who advocates an end to the Viet-Nam war.

Postscript by Holt

THE Australian Prime Minister, Mr. Holt, described the elections in South Viet-Nam as a very remarkable performance.

Mr. Holt was addressing the Federal Council of the Liberal Party. He said the success of the elections was particularly heartening in the light of the Viet Cong campaign of intimidation and sabotage. The civilian candidates had received a good vote and this factor suggested that the people of South Viet-Nam were voting freely, Mr. Holt added.

VARIATIONS ON A THEME - BY RUSK

THE American Secretary of State Mr. Dean Rusk has cautioned Hanoi against misinterpreting the nature of the American public's current discussion of the war in Viet-Nam.

"Our commitment is clear and our national interest is real," Mr. Rusk said, at a recent news conference. He told reporters there was "not the slightest indication" that North Viet-Nam was ready to negotiate an end to the war.

He also noted there is "no significant body of American opinion" in favour of withdrawing from Viet-Nam or abandoning South-East Asia "to the fate which Asian communism" plans for it.

Mr. Rusk told reporters Americans are "debating variations on a theme." That theme, he said, is a central position resting on:

(1) The need to meet commitments and defend America's vital national interest;

(2) The pursuit of limited objectives by limited means;

(3) America's earnest desire to bring this conflict to a peaceful conclusion as soon as possible.

Mr. Rusk said "Hanoi must not misunderstand this debate." The central objective of the United States in South-East Asia should not be described as containment of Chinese Communist militancy, but as "an organized and durable peace."

If China pushed out against those with whom America had alliances, then the U.S. had a problem, but so did China. If China pushed out against the Soviet Union, both China and the Soviet Union had a problem, said Mr. Rusk.

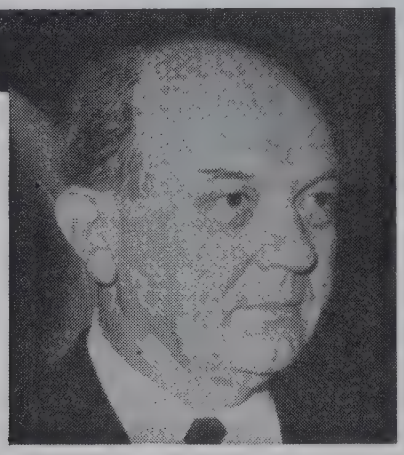
"We are not picking out Peking as some sort of special enemy. Peking has nominated itself by proclaiming a militant doctrine of the world revolution, and doing something about it," he added.

Turning to the Soviet Union he said:

"We have not had a war with the Soviet Union, in 50 years of co-existence, since their revolution," Mr. Rusk added. "We are not ourselves embarked upon an ideological campaign to destroy anybody who calls themselves Communist. But we are interested in the kind of world structure sketched in Articles I and II of the United Nations Charter, in which all nations, large and small, have a right to live in peace.

"And the aggressors nominate themselves — we don't choose them—the aggressors nominate themselves by what they say and do. And when they do, then those who are genuinely interested in peace have a problem on their hands, and sometimes it gets tough, and sometimes we are tested, and we find out what kind of people we are. "And I think", Mr. Rusk added, "one of the most important historical facts in this post war period has been that the almost unbelievable power of the United States has been harnessed to the simple notion of organizing peace in the world."

RUSK ON VIET-NAM



'Our purpose is very simple'

THE United States Secretary of State, Mr. Dean Rusk, said at the recent 49th Annual Convention of the American Legion that to assure the Vietnamese people's self-determination of their future remains the U.S. purpose in Viet-Nam.

"Our purpose in Viet-Nam is very simple," Mr. Rusk said. "Our purpose is to prevent the taking over of South Viet-Nam by the North Vietnamese. We are pledged to give the South Vietnamese a chance to determine for themselves their own government and their own future. We are doing our best to create a chance for a simple human dignity, and these are purposes we recognize in our own homes and communities."

Things on his mind

He mentioned no critics by name in his 45-minute talk, which he described as a means of speaking of "things that have been on my mind." He warned the Legionnaires, however, not to be confused by conflicting talk about Viet-Nam.

The word, "escalation," Mr. Rusk noted, seems to be reserved for U.S. actions. There is little talk of escalation, he said, when the Viet Cong use Cambodian or Laotian territory as sanctuary.

The Secretary also questioned the call to "negotiate now."

"President Johnson has said he will negotiate without conditions of any sort, and if the other side brings conditions we are willing to discuss them to open negotiations for peace," he said. "Thus far, there has been no response."

No representative

"It is curious that in all the efforts by our own government, by other governments and by private citizens, no one has been able to produce a real, live representative from Hanoi with whom one can talk," Mr. Rusk said.

The nations of South-East Asia have been heartened and encouraged by our firmness in standing by our commitment in Viet-Nam, Mr. Rusk maintained, adding:

"There is confidence and there is hope there now. There is nothing more invigorating than their regional

co-operation, and they are deeply interested in the question of the fidelity of the United States toward its security commitment.

"The principle is loyalty of commitment, and if anyone supposes that these treaties do not mean what they say, then we have not begun to see the dangers that will come on the world scene."

"The issue is simple," Mr. Rusk asserted. "We must not now make the mistakes that were made prior to World War Two. I myself confess that I find it very hard to accept the same old ideas that led our generation to catastrophe."

When the Japanese invaded Manchuria, he recalled, the sentiment in America was that it was "too far away" to worry about. When Mussolini invaded Ethiopia, it was "none of our business."

U.S. Involvement

When Hitler took over the Rhineland, Czechoslovakia and Poland, those who did not want America to be involved relied on a theory of "give him another bite and he'll be satisfied."

Then, Mr. Rusk noted, the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbour, and the United States, unprepared for war, was involved in one.

The Secretary asked his hearers to contemplate what the map of the world would look like now if, after World War Two, the United States had not resisted Stalin in his cold war, if they had stood by when the Soviets went into Iran in 1946, when they blockaded Berlin in 1948 and when they tried to take over in Greece and Turkey. "Think what the map would look like if we didn't make those moves," he suggested.

Not a stalemate

"We are told the Viet-Nam war is a stalemate," Mr. Rusk said. "The men over there don't think so. During the past two years they've seen the number of roads opened go from ten to 90 per cent; they've seen the amount of usable railroad trackage increase by better than 50 per cent. The men over there don't get the feeling of stalemate, but rather a feeling of steady progress by the South Vietnamese against terror and aggression from the North," he declared.

The Secretary of State said there is little doubt that Communist China is actively behind the aggression in South Viet-Nam. "While we must be firm in standing by our commitments," he said, "we must combine resolution with prudence, because any one of many incidents could have led us down the slippery slope to total conflagration."

Australia evolving new role in Asia

– SAYS HASLUCK

IN a recent major policy statement to Parliament in Canberra, Mr. Paul Hasluck, Australian Minister for External Affairs, defined his country as moving towards a more distinctive and effective role in South-East Asian affairs.

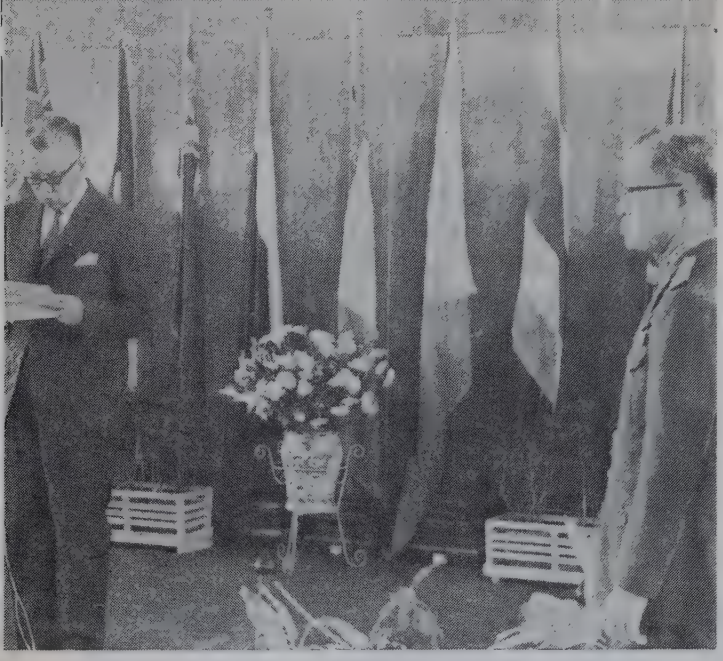
Taking Mr. Hasluck's statement and recent political developments overseas into account, the following points emerge as major factors shaping Australia's present and projected foreign policies:

REGIONAL CO-OPERATION: Mr. Hasluck pointed out that Australia's forward defence strategy was not to be looked at only in the selfish light of trying to ensure that any fighting was done as far away from Australian soil as possible. A major part of its purpose was to give the independent countries of the region the assurance and confidence they want

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 24)

M T T S

'In truth an art is really profitable of whatsoever kind it may be'— Buddhist saying



The Secretary-General of SEATO, Lieut. Gen. Jesus M. Vargas, is pictured above speaking to students at the graduation day ceremony of the Military Technical Training School.

Graduation day...

AIR Chief Marshal Dawee Chullasap recently presented 76 graduates of certificates following the graduation of school started in 1959.

Following the presentation of Loomes, presented tool kits to two in students passing out after three years t instruction in electrical fitting, machinin

In his speech to the students the C fast moving world with technological against complacency. If you do not t will find yourselves left behind and thi Marshal Dawee.

He added that as skilled trades carrying out national development pro to their jobs and to apply their learnin

Facilitie

In his report, the Commandant who has been head of the school since proved for the purchase of another 15 ra Funds had also been allocated for more h

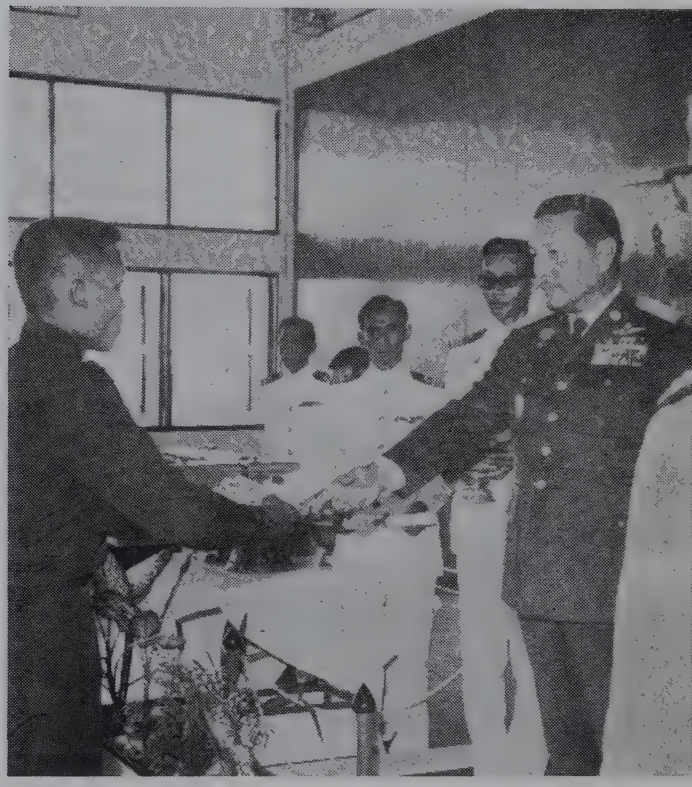
The Secretary-General of SEATO and tangible contribution" the MTTS technology in the South-East Asian re deserved praise in this context for thei framework, the Secretary-General added

In his speech, Mr. Loomes said was small, Australia was happy to contin He said that one way was the training of two trainees would shortly leave for Aust Australia provides two scholarships for M

A joint Thai-Australia SEATO pro under its SEATO aid programme. 36 inauguration.

The Australian Ambassador, Mr. A. H. Loomes, is pictured left congratulating one of the outstanding graduates to whom he awarded a comprehensive tool kit.

Air Chief Marshal Dawee Chullasapya, Mr. Paul Eckel of SEATO, and General Abhichart Dhiradhamrong, Chief, SEATO Military Planning Office, are pictured leaving the parade ground.



One of the 76 graduating students is shown receiving his certificate from Air Chief Marshal Dawee Chullasapya.

f Staff, Supreme Command Headquarters,
y Technical Training School (MTTS) with
of the fifth intake of trainees since the

the Australian Ambassador, Mr. A.H.
f the school and to eight outstanding
nd practical training. The school provides
tting and metal smithing.

f warned of complacency. "We live in a
moving forward at a rapid rate. Guard
abreast of new theories and changes you
eflected in your work," said Air Chief

udents had an important role to play in
The students should pay close attention
ects of life.

extended

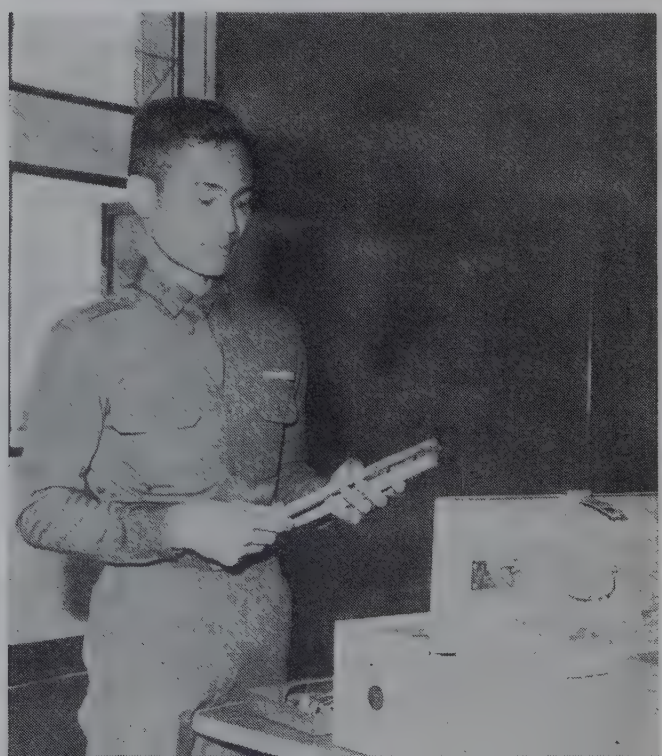
S, Air Vice Marshal Chamras Vinagupta,
on in 1959, said that plans had been ap-
o that present facilities could be extended.
built for staff members.

n. Jesus M. Vargas, spoke of the "vital
owards the advancement of science and
Governments of Thailand and Australia
mutual collaboration within the SEATO

h his country's contribution to the school
iation with the institution in various ways.
in Australia and that he was hopeful that
welve months' course of advanced training.
ts each year.

TTS was set up in 1959 helped by Australia
have graduated from the school since its

...for 76 artisans



A proud student examines the contents of his tool kit, one of several presented to outstanding graduates as gifts.

while they develop their economies and evolve political institutions.

He said the next few years should be used wisely in developing regional co-operation and understanding in the Asian region. But it would be wrong-headed at this stage to think in terms of an all-embracing regional security arrangement. Some countries in the region already had multilateral or bilateral security arrangements while others wished to stay out of such pacts.

Mr. Hasluck argued that it should be possible to achieve a situation where the nations of the region did not work against each others' security interests. Because of changes taking place in South-East Asia, it would be premature for Australia to think immediately of an alliance including Indonesia. The Government's view was that because of the good relations with Australia's closest neighbour, any security arrangements to which Australia became a party should be understood by Indonesia as serving its interests as well.

Time to adapt

Mr. Hasluck said Australian policy had been based on certain assumptions about British policy. He said: "To the extent to which British foreign policy changes, so we will have to change the assumptions on which our own policy rests. We have to learn to work, not with the Britain that used to be, but with what Britain chooses to be in the future."

He warned that Australians should not allow any impression to grow, particularly in Malaysia and Singapore, that there would be sudden withdrawal of protection.

The British changes would be gradual, allowing time to adapt. This included plans for the development of the forces of Malaysia and Singapore over the next 10 years.

A significant point Mr. Hasluck made was that Australia was not in the position to take over Britain's role in South-East Asia, but to develop its own distinctive one.

VIET-NAM: On information put before it, the Australian Government believed the outlook for peace negotiations in Viet-Nam was not encouraging.

After giving details of this information to Parliament, Mr. Hasluck said it was clear that the allies in Viet-Nam must maintain their present efforts at every level of "this complex and difficult conflict" until the enemy abandoned his aggression or sought reconciliation through negotiations.

THE ASIAN REGION: Mr. Hasluck demonstrated the Australian Government's awareness of the great diversity that exists between Asian nations, as well as the community of interest in many matters.

"The recognition of diversity inside the region goes alongside respect for the national integrity and independence of the States of the region", he said.

"Year by year, the free countries of Asia are growing in understanding of each other and in readiness to co-operate with each other to serve common aims and to bring a better life for all the peoples of our region.

"In both respects I am confident that Australia has become part of a great forward movement and is so accepted in friendship by her neighbours," added Mr. Hasluck. (AIS)

Viet-Nam peace move to break vicious circle

A new plan for a five-nation summit meeting to search for a path to peace in Viet-Nam has been announced in Geneva by the World Federation of the United Nations Associations. It calls on the Prime Ministers of the Soviet Union, Britain, Poland, India and Canada to join in consultations aimed at bridging the gap between the peace conditions demanded by Hanoi and Washington.

The President of the voluntary organisation, Dr. A. Betler of Czechoslovakia, said he had suggested the summit meeting in letters to the leaders of the five nations. Copies were sent to President Johnson, President Ho Chi Minh of North Viet-Nam and the UN Secretary-General, U Thant.

Dr. Betler said the summit call was an attempt to break up what he described as the vicious circle of conditions and counter conditions for negotiations which had so far dogged all efforts to seek peace in Viet-Nam.

DEFENCE

27th conference

THE 27th conference of the SEATO Military Advisers opened in Bangkok on September 12, under the chairmanship of Air Chief Marshal Dawee Chullasapya, Military Adviser for Thailand and Chief of Staff, Supreme Command Headquarters.

A brief ceremony was held in the morning to mark the opening of the conference, the first to be conducted in the new SEATO Headquarters building, on Sri Ayudhya Road. The flags of participating countries and that of the South-East Asia Treaty Organization were unfurled.

Military Advisers, the Secretary-General of SEATO, the Chief, Military Planning Office and the Pakistan Military Adviser's Representative attended the ceremony.

Military Advisers attending the Conference were: Lieut. Gen. Sir John Wilton, KBE, CB, DSO, Chairman of the Australian Chiefs of Staff Committee; Lieut. Gen. Sir Leonard W. Thornton, KCB, CBE, Chief of New Zealand Defence Staff; General Segundo P. Velasco, AFP, Chief of Staff, Armed Forces of the Philippines; Air Chief Marshal Dawee Chullasapya, Chief of Staff, Thai Supreme Command Headquarters; General Sir Michael Carver, KCB, CBE, DSO, MC, United Kingdom Command-in-Chief Far East; Admiral U.S.G. Sharp, USN, United States Commander-in-Chief Pacific; Group Captain Kamal Ahmad, SEATO Military Adviser's Representative for Pakistan (Observer). The text of the joint communique issued after the conference is as follows:

Communique

THE Military Advisers of the South-East Asia Treaty Organization ended their 27th Conference held at the new SEATO building in Bangkok today. They met under the chairmanship of Air Chief Marshal Dawee Chullasapya, Military Adviser for Thailand.

The Military Advisers emphasized again the inportance of SEATO as a bulwark against the Communist threat in South-East Asia. They reaffirmed their determination to maintain and increase the military effectiveness of the Organization to resist Communist aggression and subversion in the Treaty Area.

The Conference heard an address by the Secretary-General of SEATO, Lieutenant-General Jesus Vargas, on the general political situation in the Treaty Area, in which he emphasized in particular developments in Communist China and Viet-Nam.

The Secretary-General expressed gratification over the growth of regional co-operation in economic, cultural and political matters among the free peoples of South-East Asia and the Far East.

Air Chief Marshal Dawee, the Military Adviser for Thailand, described the Communist insurgency in Northeast Thailand and the steps being taken by the Royal Thai Government to counter it. In addition to active military and police measures, great efforts are being made in the field of social programmes including economic and medical assistance. Considerable progress is being made in the struggle.

Air Chief Marshal Dawee acknowledged the assistance being provided by other SEATO nations. This includes provision of equipment, training and construction assistance by the United States, the construction of roads in the area by Australian, New Zealand and United Kingdom military engineers and the gift of vehicles for medical teams by the United Kingdom. Admiral U S.G. Sharp, United States Military Adviser, described progress of the war in Viet-Nam. The conference noted the steadily improving military situation in South Viet-Nam, the successful holding of the recent Presidential and Senate elections and expressed satisfaction over the progress being made in the Revolutionary Development programme.

Greater military effort

The Military Advisers noted the large and increasing military effort of the Republic of South Viet-Nam in its struggle to preserve its freedom and the increased force commitments of a number of Member Nations in support of that struggle. The United States has announced its intention significantly to increase its forces in South Viet-Nam, which already total over 460.000 men. The main body of the Royal Thai Army Volunteer Regiment for Viet-Nam, a self-contained infantry task force of 2,200 men, will soon deploy to South Viet-Nam. Australian forces in South Viet-Nam now total about 6,000 men from all three services. New Zealand supports the Republic of Viet-Nam cause with an artillery battery and an infantry company and supporting elements. The Philippines Civic Action Group, a 2,060-man unit, continues to perform valuable service in Tay Ninh Province. The conference recognized the contribution of other nations in the fight against Communist aggression and subversion, especially the Republic of Korea with the 48,000-man force fighting in South Viet-Nam.

The Military Advisers reviewed existing SEATO defensive arrangements in the light of the current threat. They expressed satisfaction over the successful conclusion of two SEATO exercises, "SEA DOG" and "AURORA".

They examined reports by the Chief of the SEATO Military Planning Office, Major General Abhichart Dhiradhamrong, and approved a programme of future work for the SEATO Military Planning Office. The Military Advisers decided to hold their next meeting in Wellington, New Zealand, immediately before the next SEATO Council Meeting proposed for April 1968.

STRATEGY ON THE GOLF COURSE

IT is said that more diplomatic decisions between statesmen have been made on golf courses than almost anywhere else. This may be true of military decisions, too. At any rate, delegates to the 27th SEATO Military Advisers' Conference, held at the new SEATO Headquarters building in Bangkok on September 12, found time during a break in their deliberations for a round of golf on the Bangkok Dusit links.

On the other hand it was much more than just a game of golf. It was in fact the final round of the first SEATO Military Advisers' Trophy Contest—and the lucky winners were the Thai national team led by Air Chief Marshal Dawee Chullasapya. This trophy, donated recently by the SEATO Military Advisers for a perpetual competition between national teams from member nations and the Military Planning Office, was being competed for for the first time.

In the picture Lt. Gen. Sir John Wilton, Australian Military Adviser lines up the ball on the green for a "stretegic" putt watched by Major General Abhichart Dhiradhamrong, Admiral U.S.G. Sharp, and Air Chief Marshal Dawee.

...LEARNING TO BEAT THE REDS

AT THEIR OWN GAME

MORE than 6,000 provincial police and Special Action Forces have graduated from the Chaiya Training Centre in Chiengmai, Thailand, since it opened in December, 1962, in one of the nation's measures against Communist insurgency.

The Training Centre programme is primarily one of educating men and officers in guerilla warfare, counter-terrorist tactics and in jungle strategy. It also trains its students in civic action, in how to deal with the farmer, the villager and the problems of the rural areas — all Communist targets.

The training falls into three main categories:

1. A ten-week course in basic special warfare for junior officers, non-commissioned officers and constables;

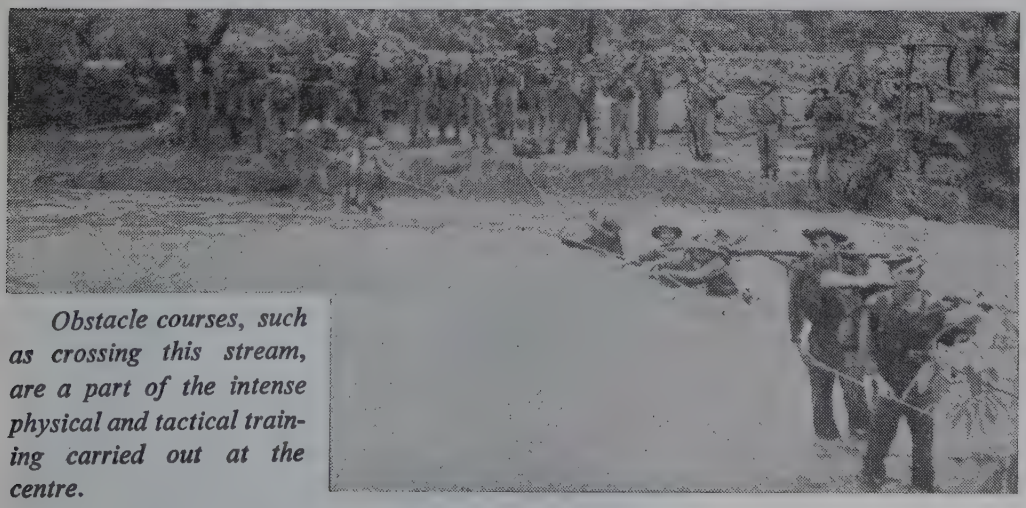
2. A four-week course for district commanders and deputy commanders which also enables them to plan operations from field intelligence;

3. A seven-week course for Special Action Forces, which was started late in 1966 as Communist terrorism became more threatening in some sectors of Thailand. It is an intensified course in special warfare training for the entire provincial police of the nation.

The Special Action Forces are to provide immediate counter action to subversion anywhere in Thailand. More than a thousand have completed the course in less than a year. The SAF work in units of 50 men. A number of units have been assigned to Northeast Thailand were Communist terrorists are active. The purpose is to give security to threatened areas as well as to seek out and destroy terrorists.

Provincial Police are brought from all parts of Thailand to the Chaiya Training Centre for special training in combatting Communist subversion.

As the training manual at the Centre states: "Meaningful national development can only take place where the security of a country is constant and assured... The threat to Thailand's security in recent years was made obvious by the formation of the 'Thai Independence Movement' endorsed by Peking and Hanoi. Later on, this Organization merged with the Thai Patriotic Front whose goal was, and still is, to overthrow the existing and legitimate government and to replace it with one that would co-operate with the Communist powers of Asia."



Obstacle courses, such as crossing this stream, are a part of the intense physical and tactical training carried out at the centre.

ITEMS IN BRIEF

Six ships of the British Royal Navy recently visited Bangkok after a series of exercises in the Gulf of Thailand with ships of the Royal Malaysian Navy in co-operation with the Royal Thai Navy.

The ships were the fast minelayer and support ship, HMS Manxman, together with HMS Dartington, Bossington, Maryton, Maxton and Hubberston, all of the 6th Mine Counter-measures Squadron.

Captain J.D. Hope, RN., who conducted the exercises in the Gulf of Thailand, is in overall command.

Sporting events

During the course of the visit to Bangkok, courtesy calls were made on the Deputy Commander-in-Chief, Royal Fleet, Vice-Admiral Cherdchai Thomya. The ships crews took part in various sporting events against the Cosmopolitans, the Royal Bangkok Sports Club and the International School.

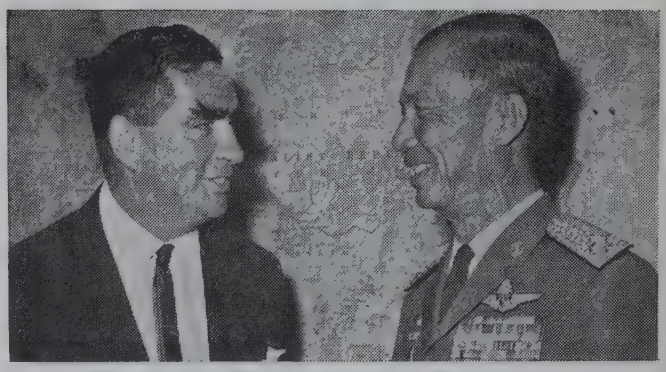
During their stay a party was held on board HMS Manxman for orphans from the Rajavithee Home.

● General Segundo P. Velasco, Chief of Staff, Armed Fores of the Philippines, was recently appointed Philippines Military Adviser to SEATO.

Until his new assignment, General Velasco was AFP Vice Chief of Staff.

He has served in various staff and troop duty assignments in the Armed Forces. During the war he fought in the Battle of Bataan, was taken prisoner, subsequently escaped, and for the rest of the war fought with the resistance movement in Northern Luzon.

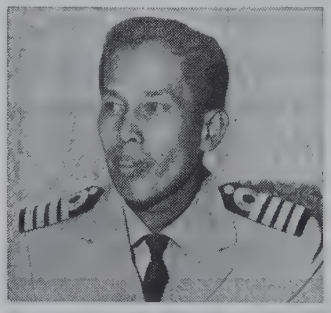
After the war, General Velasco featured prominently in several anti-Communist campaigns. After graduating from various military colleges in America, he later attended SEATO conferences and actively participated in bilateral and multilateral exercises.



● Air Chief Marshal Boonchoo Chandrubeksa pictured above (right), Commander in Chief of the Royal Thai Air Force, chats to Mr. Denis Healey, Britain's Minister of Defence, at the Ministry of Defence in London during the Air Chief Marshal's recent visit to Royal Air Force units in the United Kingdom. (BIS)

● The new deputy chief of SEATO Military Planning Office, Captain Chob Sirodom of the Royal Thai Navy, took over his assignment recently from Brig. Gen. W.J. Meng of the United States Air Force.

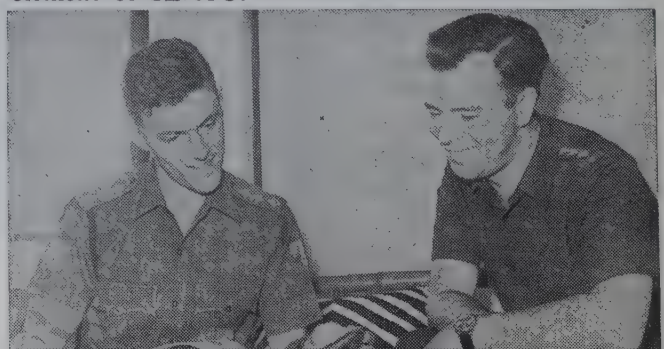
Captain Chob is a graduate of the Royal Thai Naval Academy and of several higher educational institutions, including the Naval Staff College in Bangkok and the US Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island.



He has held a wide variety of posts in the Royal Thai Navy.

Before joining SEATO, he was the Chief of Education Department, the Royal Thai Naval Academy.

● After serving for 14 months in Bangkok, Captain A.H. Boyle, pictured below (left), Commander of the 649 Signal Troop of the Commonwealth Communications Network, recently handed over his command to Capt. D.J. Henning, who last served at the Royal Military College of Science at Shrivenham, Wiltshire. The Communications Troop is maintained by the United Kingdom in Bangkok for the ANZUK element of SEATO.



A helping hand for the hill people

IN THIS ARTICLE AUSTRALIAN ANTHROPOLOGIST PETER HINTON TALKS ABOUT SOME OF THE TOPICS DISCUSSED AT THE FIRST HILL TRIBES SEMINAR HELD RECENTLY AT THAILAND'S TRIBAL RESEARCH CENTRE IN CHIENGMAI. MR. HINTON IS ADVISER TO THE CENTRE, HIS SERVICES BEING CONTRIBUTED THROUGH SEATO.

THE threat of Communist subversion has directed the attention of the Government of Thailand towards the remote frontiers of this country.

In opening the first symposium of the Tribal Research Centre at Chiengmai recently the Chairman, Dr. Malai Huvanandana, Deputy Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Interior, quoted the Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand, General Praphas Charusathira, who has written:

"There are special areas in the country with special problems demanding special forms of action. One of these areas is the mountainous northern frontier region bordering on Laos and Burma. This region is inhabited by tribal peoples who are of ethnic origin different from the Thai. It is of special concern to the Government in both its welfare and security aspects and from the points of view of both the hill peoples and the nation as a whole."

In his opening speech, Dr. Malai went on to say; "It is my firm belief that the findings of social anthropologists and linguists attached to or co-operating with the Tribal Research Centre will help indicate solutions to these 'special problems', for their work will facilitate the central planning of development and administration while it will show members of field teams how to apply their efforts to best effect. We want, above all, to develop plans and to foster action in the field which will yield the results we, the policy makers, desire."

Dr. Malai was addressing the eighty two participants in the symposium who were research anthropologists, agriculturalists and linguists; representatives of government agencies and foreign aid organizations. Representatives of the Australian,

'It's people like us they are talking about'

United States and British embassies attended.

Eleven papers were delivered at the symposium, and topics included the structure of lowland and tribal societies, interaction between uplands and lowlands, the agricultural economy of the uplands, and the problems of communication in an area where many languages are spoken.

The venue of the symposium, the Tribal Research Centre, is part of the Department of Public Welfare, Ministry of Interior. Three foreign anthropologists, myself (Adviser); Mr. D.J. Miles (Yao research officer); and Mr. A.R. Walker (Lahu research officer) are attached to the Centre. Miles and myself are contributed by the Australian Government, while Walker's services were contributed by the British Government. All three of us were contributed through SEATO, and each of us delivered papers to the symposium.

Not isolated

Although no resolutions were drawn from meetings, there was a general consensus among participants on a number of important issues. Most participants agreed that it was impossible to regard tribal societies as isolated from surrounding Thai communities. Detailed investigations have shown that there were complex links of trade, marriage and administration between several of the larger ethnic groups of the North.

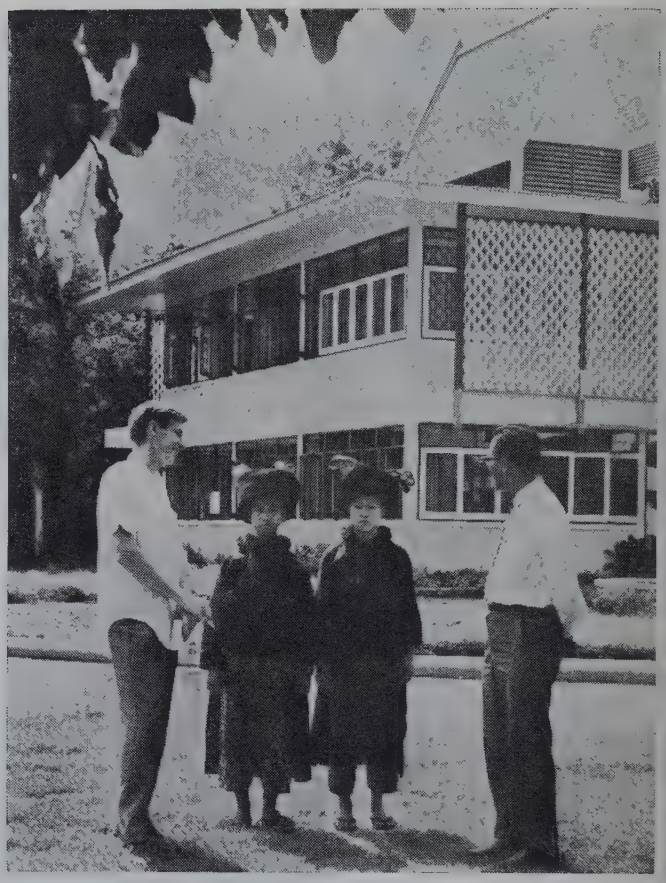
Individuals sometimes moved across cultural boundaries, adopting the dress, costume and language of the assimilating group.

Similarly, several contributors cited cases where people like Karen, Thai, Lawa and Shan had close symbiotic economic relations with higher altitude tribal groups like the Meo, Yao and Lahu. At the same time, some groups of lowlanders were moving up into the hills, owing to land shortages in the plains, where they adopted an agricultural economy based on shifting cultivation, a method which is usually thought to be peculiar to the hill tribesmen.

Complex situation

The situation is much more complex than the simple, water-tight categories of "plainsmen" and "hill tribes" would allow. There is a variation along a continuum of cultural and economic difference, rather than a clear break between the two groups as they are conventionally distinguished.

The implications of these facts for administration are most important. It was felt that the Government



Douglas Miles, (left), an Australian anthropologist who is studying the Yao Tribe, one of the six main tribes in Northern Thailand, is pictured here with two young girls dressed in tribal costume outside The Hill Tribes Research Centre in Chiengmai. On the right is the Director of the Centre, Mr. Warat Bhruksasri.

should try, by all possible means to link the programme of upland development (as administered by the Hill Tribe Division of the Department of Public Welfare and the Border Patrol Police) with local government, and the work of general regional development.

One problem which was discussed at length was shifting agriculture. Shifting cultivation occurs when people clear a piece of virgin jungle, farm it for a year or two, and then move onto another area of land. Some officials of the Government have claimed that this method of cultivation has caused permanent damage to the watersheds of the north, with soil erosion and siltation of streams. However, several contributors cited cases where tribal communities carefully rotate their jungle fields so

as to allow adequate time for soil regeneration, and to prevent erosion.

Taking these precautions, these communities have been able to remain in the one village for many years, rotating their upland fields without ever having to walk more than three hours to their fields. Although some people do carry out shifting agriculture by methods which could cause soil damage, these are a minority. The cases cited above led most participants to conclude that if people were shown how to conserve their land, there was no reason why upland shifting agriculture could not be the basis of a stable and productive rice economy.

Moreover, it seems evident that neither the provision of irrigated land, nor the lowland resettlement of population were realistic alternatives to upland shifting cultivation for the estimated 250,000 people who live above the 2,000 feet mark. Land is already scarce in the alluvial plains, for the Thai population is increasing rapidly. In fact one contributor cited a detailed survey which showed that 31 per cent of all Thai farmers in the northern provinces owned at least one field in the foothill or hill region. In Nan province this figure was a remarkable 88 per cent. Thus the Thai, as well as the hill peoples, use the hills for agricultural purposes on a significant scale. The demographic facts are such that an expansion of upland land usage seems inevitable.

Most participants thus agreed that agricultural experimentation and extension work must aim at finding means for making shifting agriculture as productive a means of subsistance as possible, while causing minimum damage to forests and watersheds. It does not seem that cash cropping on a large scale by peasant farmers is feasible, for transport is extremely difficult in the hills, and marketing facilities for such crops are very primitive.

Some contributors considered that agrarian conflict could occur in the hills if careful plans were not made by the authorities.

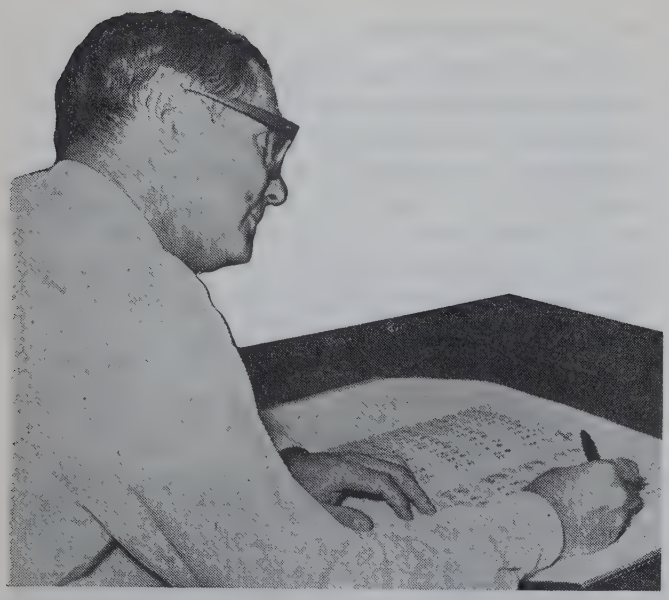
Population is increasing through natural causes, by migration of tribesmen from surrounding countries, and by the movement of Thai farmers from lowlands to uplands. To prevent such conflict, contributors suggested several solutions apart from the obvious one of finding means of improving productivity. Some maintained that the authorities will have to reverse their present policy of not recognising titles to jungle fields. Others thought that the Government could encourage private investment in the mining and plantation industries which could offer employment for people living in the hills.

British anthropologist, Anthony Walker, who is doing a study of the Red Lahu Tribe, snapped this picture of a young Lahu boy playing with his pet squirrel.

●

Thus the scope of shifting cultivation was, like many other issues such as education, local government and medical care, a regional problem, which is not peculiar to the so called "hill tribes".

Effective administration must be based on such an understanding. An administration of this kind is the only one which will be able to serve the interests of the people, and withstand the threat of aggression by seepage from outside its borders.



The SEATO Salute

By K.C. Duncan

SEATO now has its own "signature tune" Officially called the 'SEATO Salute', it has been composed for all major ceremonial occasions and was played for the first time at the dedication ceremony of the new headquarters building on September 8 — the date which also appropriately coincided with the thirteenth anniversary of the Organization.

The composer of this stirring melody, Mr. Kenneth C. Duncan, Director of Research at SEATO Headquarters, is a keen violinist who spent many hours wrestling with crotchets and quavers before the final score emerged.

The melody was arranged for military band by the Director of Music of the Australian Army, Lt. Col. R.A. Newman. The official version incorporates some modifications proposed by Colonel Antonino Buenaventura, President of the Music Council of the Philippines.

The Salute was played at the dedication ceremony by the band of the Royal Thai Navy under the direction of Commander Samret Niyomdej.

IT'S ALL A QUESTION OF 'DEGREE'

A SMALL, but significant ceremony was held in Manila recently to ratify a document which is likely to have far-reaching effects upon educational advancement in the three SEATO member countries, Thailand, Pakistan and the Philippines. The purpose of this event was to bring into being, the instrument of university equivalences between these three member nations of SEATO.

The ceremony took place in the conference room of the Philippine Foreign Secretary, Narciso Ramos, and was signed on behalf of the Secretary-General, Lt. Gen. Jesus M. Vargas, by SEATO Director of Cultural and Economic Affairs, Mr. S.M.H. Rizvi, who was in the Philippines at the time to attend the thirteenth anniversary celebrations of SEATO.

In his speech at the ceremony, Mr. Ramos said that the exchange of scholars and students between the three countries was very fruitful and that it would be faciliated under the equivalences convention which is based upon the precept that universities of the three member countries would recognize each other's post-graduate degrees as being of reciprocol status.

Mr. Rizvi, in his speech, said that the convention of university equivalences symbolised a wider area of understanding and international co-operation among SEATO partners in the Treaty Area, both in the educational and cultural fields.

Mr. Rizvi shared the hope that inter-university equivalences of the Philippines, Thailand and Pakistan would hasten the pace of cultural orientation, accelerate the process of economic growth and thus help to meet the rising expectations for the people of South-East Asia.

Solving the problem of PEOPLE

an economic and social dilemma

THE rapid increase in population in Asia and the Far East within the next three decades will present a formidable challenge to world economic and political stability.

This was the message that emerged from two significant international conferences recently concluded in Sydney, Australia.

The conferences were the 13th International Conference of Agricultural Economics, attended by more than 300 delegates from 60 countries, and the regional conference of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP), attended by about 150 delegates from 30 countries.

The IUSSP conference, which concentrated on demographic aspects of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE) region, had before it more than 100 papers dealing with the implications of contemporary population trends on all aspects of social and economic development in the region.

The theme of the agricultural economists conference was the role of the farmer in a rapidly changing world. In brief, the conference was told that, with notable but minor exceptions, populations of countries in the ECAFE region were increasing at practically double the rate in developed countries; that birth-control programmes were having little effect as yet on the rate of reproduction; that the increasing numbers would subject essential social services to severe strain and jeopardise the attainment of even modest economic progress.

Brunei, Burma, Cambodia, India, Iran, Indonesia, Pakistan, Nepal, the Philippines and Thailand were experiencing birth rates in the order of 40 or more per thousand population per year, almost double the rate in developed countries.

Gross reproduction in these countries ranged from 2.6 to 3.5 per cent of population a year. Developed countries in the region, Japan, Australia and New Zealand, had gross reproduction rates of between one per cent and two per cent.

By 2000 A.D. world population will have increased to almost 6,000 million and the population of the ECAFE region would be almost 5,000 millon—80 per cent of the total population and four time as great as the rest of the world population.

Several factors are known to effect fertility rates and population growth. Education tends to be a depressant. It is also a stimulant to agricultural output and economic development.

Food production must increase by four times its present volume if the world population is to be adequately fed by 2000 A.D.

THAILAND HAS NEW COPPER BELT

Mr. Vija Sethaput, Director-General of The Department of Mineral Resources, and members of the survey team inspect tunnels bored into Hin Lekfai Range during a geological survey in the Northeastern province of Loey.

A United States geological survey under United Nation's sponsorship has revealed vast deposits of copper and iron ore in the North East region of Thailand.

This is revealed in an 'open file' report recently issued following completion of the survey which lasted for three and a half years.

The geologists worked closely with the Royal Thai Department of Mineral Resources to study areas in the Mekong River basin. The lower basin is considered by many to be the key to improving the welfare of several South-East Asian nations.

The exploratory investigations, using geological, geophysical, and geochemical methods as well as test drilling, were focused on the areas around Loei-Chiengkarn, Chaiyaphum, and Ban Kam Duang about 400 miles northeast of Bangkok.

The results, released in the 276-page, report show:

●

Mr. H.S. Jacobson explains the results of his team's geological surveys for ore deposits to Mr. Vija Sethaput, Director-General of the Department of Mineral Resources.

(1) — A total of 16 million tons of proven and probable reserves of copper ore and an additional 62 million tons of possible reserves are reportedly present in three deposits;

(2) — Iron ore deposits total approximately 27 million tons in the areas investigated;

(3) — Barite is present in a limestone replacement deposit containing 2.5 million tons of proven and probable reserves and 3 million tons of possible reserves;

(4) — There are 660 million tons of proven and probable salt reserves containing an average of 96.8 per cent of sodium chloride. The possible reserves of salt are estimated at 1500 million tons.

(5) — Some gold occurs in stream deposits, but the amounts present are believed too small to sustain commercial production.

Techniques used in the investigations involved nearly all methods of modern mineral exploration including detailed topographic and geologic mapping, magnetic surveys, geochemical soil surveys, pitting, trenching, and diamond drilling. Diamond drilling, aggregating 4,963 meters, was accomplished at 54 locations. Of the 58 mineral localities investigated, 24 have been previously known.

The American field party was led by C.T. Pierson, Senior mining geologist and H.S. Jacobson, economic geologist.

'CONGRATULATIONS' 169 TIMES

"A month of awards" would be an apt description of September as far as SEATO is concerned. A large part of what the Organization offers by way of certificates, prizes and scholarships are presented to their recipients on and around September 8, each year, which is the Organizations anniversary date.

● *Miss Sanit Supamala of Kasetsart (Agriculture) University, one of the 25 university students selected for the SEATO under-graduate scholarships is shown receiving her award from Thailand's Deputy Prime Minister, Prince Wan Waithayakorn.*

This year more than 150 staff and students received awards of one kind or another. The presentation of honourable service awards to staff members was held on September 7, in the reception hall of the new headquarters building, with Secretary-General Jesus M. Vargas presiding over the ceremony. In addition to the Secretariat-General and the Military Planning Office all SEATO projects — the Graduate School of Engineering, the Military Technical Training School, the Medical Research Laboratory and the Clinical Research Centre — were represented at this annual event, making it a large convivial family affair.

Twenty staff members awarded their honourable service certificates on September 7 had served the Organization and its projects for 10 years; 114 had passed the five-year mark. Badges engraved with the SEATO crest, in silver for the latter and gold for the former, were also presented by General Vargas along with the certificates.

The second presentation ceremony took place in the afternoon of SEATO Day at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Mr. Charas Chalermtirana, Deputy Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, handed over 10 prizes to authors of the winning essays on SEATO for 1966-67.

Technical aid

First prize winner in the students category of the essay contest was Pramoj Kowarin of Panichyakarn School, Ayudhya Province. The title set for entrants of this category was "SEATO Technical Assistance and its Benefits to Thailand".

First Prize in the general public category went to Mr. Arun Ek-iam, Headmaster of Silkandharam

● *Miss Veronica Williams from New Zealand, who is a conference officer with SEATO, is pictured above receiving a certificate of long service from the Secretary-General, Lieut. Gen. Jesus M. Vargas.*

Mr. Charas Chalermtirana, Deputy Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, presents an award to Pramoj Kowarin of Panichyakarn Vasukri School, Ayudhya Province, who won first prize in the annual SEATO Essay Contest.

School, Ang Thong Province. The topic for contestants in this group was "The Relationship Between SEATO Commitments and Thailand's National Security".

On September 11, at Santimaitri Hall, Government House, Thailand's Deputy Prime Minister, Prince, Wan Waithayakorn, presented the SEATO undergraduate scholarship awards to 25 university students in a ceremony attended by leading educators and senior government and SEATO officials.

SEATO assistance to Thailand in the field of education has been going on for ten years, Prince Wan pointed out in his address, and it had "made a real contribution to the Thai Government efforts in national development," he said.

The 25 student awardees represented the Seven universities of Thailand: Chulalongkorn, Thammasat, Kasetsart, Medical Sciences, Silpakorn, Chiengmai and Kon Khaen, and the College of Education.

BON VOYAGE

LAST month SEATO said farewell to one of its longest serving officials—Mr. Lous Jacques Rollet-Andriane.

As SEATO Director of Administration, Mr. Rollet-Andriane shouldered a very large share of the complex responsibility in getting the new headquarters building erected, equipped, and ready for occupation. He was not able to be present, however, on the gala day of its dedication, having left Bangkok a few weeks earlier to take up a new post with UNESCO in Europe, as director and coordinator of the international campaign to restore works of art in Florence and preserve cultural treasures in Venice.

At one of the many farewell receptions given for Mr. Rollet-Andriane, the Secretary-General, Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, paid a glowing tribute to the part he played in SEATO. "I consider him one of our most dedicated members," General Vargas said. "He has contributed to the efficient functioning of this Organization by virtue of his great capacity for hard work, his meticulous attention to detail and, above all, his dynamic and imaginative leadership. His departure will be a great loss to us."

Mr. Rollet-Andriane joined SEATO in 1956,

having the distinction of being the first member of the international staff to have been appointed. Serving as Director of Cultural Relations (at present the Office of Cultural and Economic Affairs) from 1956-63, he had initiated and participated in many of the historic SEATO conferences, notably the meetings of Heads of Universities. He became Director of Administration in 1963.

Mrs. Jesus Vargas is pictured above pinning a corsage to the dress of Madame Rollet-Andriane at the party given by the Secretary-General.

ECAFE GROUP DISCUSSES ASIA'S INDUSTRIAL CLIMATE . . .

A GROUP of high-level government officials and experts in industrial development recently concluded a week-long session in Bangkok. They were members of the Advisory Group to the Asian Industrial Development Council (AIDC), a body set up in 1966 by the United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE) to speed up Asia's industrial development. The session, which was opened by Mr. U. Nyun, ECAFE's Executive Secretary, was held under the chairmanship of Professor L.V. Castle of New Zealand.

The nine-member Advisory Group was selected by AIDC last year on the basis of nominations made by member countries of ECAFE. Its function is to advise AIDC on measures for promoting sub-regional or regional co-operation in industrial development.

Intermediate form

The group considered the scope, need and determining factors for industrial integration. It noted that industrial integration may take the form, on the one hand, of bilateral co-operation in a specific industrial project and on the other, multilateral co-operation covering the industrial sector in a region. For a large and heterogenous area like the ECAFE region, the group felt that an intermediate form between these two extremes would appear desirable. Also examined were major problems confronting industrial integration among developing countries.

Considering the role of AIDC in sub-regional industrial development, the group pointed out that AIDC could render service to the existing sub-regional groupings such as the Association for South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Regional Co-operation for Development (RCD) and the Committee for Co-ordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin. It recommended that AIDC should request ASEAN, RCD and the Mekong Committee to provide it with information on their programme of work and the progress made by them.

The Advisory Group has proposed a study on the long-term perspectives for industrialization and regional co-operation in the developing countries of the ECAFE region. It laid down the objective and scope of such a study suggesting how and by whom it should be undertaken.

It has also provided guidelines for studies to be prepared by action groups appointed by the Asian Industrial Development Council. These guidelines will ensure that all relevant aspects are covered by the action groups in a manner permitting a comprehensive and thorough evaluation of their recommendations. They will also ensure a uniform approach in the studies to be made by the various action groups. They indicate in a general way the essential information needed for the evaluation of projects on a sub-regional basis. (UNIS)

. . . CENTO probes food problems

A major step in the Central Treaty Organization's campaign to help increase food production in Iran, Pakistan and Turkey began last month with the opening of the CENTO Conference on Agricultural Development Policy in Istanbul.

Under preparation for several months, the Conference analyzed the agricultural experience of the three countries, and other developing countries, to determine the factors that promote increases in agricultural production. From this analysis the conference sought to identify practical national and regional measures that might be taken to assure larger annual increases in agricultural production, and prepare specific recommendations for consideration by member governments.

The findings and recommendations of the Conference are expected to be examined at a conference of the Ministers of Agriculture of Iran, Pakistan and Turkey, in Ankara in early November. Later, it will be reviewed in detail by the CENTO Sub-Committee on Agriculture.

LEGION OF MERIT FOR THAI PREMIER

THE U.S. Legion of Merit, Degree of Chief Commander, was recently awarded to the Prime Minister of Thailand, Field Marshal Thanom Kittikachorn, in recognition of his "exceptionally meritorious achievement in the field of public service."

The award, the highest the U.S. Government can bestow, and reserved for heads of government, was made by the American Ambassador, Mr. Graham Martin, on behalf of President Lyndon Johnson. The ceremony, attended by members of the Council of Ministers, other Thai dignitaries and U.S. officials, was held at the Ambassador's residence in Bangkok.

Mr. Martin said the citation "reveals the great respect and admiration my country has for Your Excellency, not only personally, but as the wise and determined statesman under whose leadership Thailand has achieved an extraordinary rate of internal growth."

The text of the citation by President Johnson is as follows:

"The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Legion of Merit (Degree of Chief Commander) to Field Marshal Thanom Kittikachorn, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, for exceptionally meritorious achievement in the field of public service since his appointment to the post of Prime Minister in December 1963.

Inspired leadership

"By his outstanding leadership Field Marshal Thanom has materially increased the efficiency of the armed forces in his country. He has championed the principles of national independence and integrity during a trying period. Under his inspired leadership, Thailand has energetically and materially furthered the aspirations of regional co-operation in South-East Asia, a goal which will benefit all of the people of the region. By unselfishly offering its good offices in the resolution of regional disputes, Thailand has further contributed to the cause of peace and development.

"Prime Minister Thanom has met with confidence the demands of these manifold tasks, which have called for the utmost in courage, vision and judgment. His exceptionally distinguished leadership throughout his tenure as Prime Minister reflects distinct credit upon himself and his country."

Filipino students honoured

MISS Racquel E. Aguila, (pictured above) of Manila, Philippines, was granted recently a one-year scholarship in graduate studies at the Far Eastern University (Manila), leading to the Degree of Master of Arts.

The grant was occasioned by Miss Aguila's winning the first prize in the 1966 SEATO national essay writing contest, which was open to all university and college students of the Philippines.

At the time of the contest, Miss Aguila was in the graduating class (A.B.) of the Institute of Arts and Sciences, Far Eastern University.

Miss Aguila is now taking up graduate studies at her Alma Mater, FEU, majoring in Political Science.

The SEATO national essay writing contest which awarded first prize to Miss Aguila was on "The Role of SEATO in Asia Today".

Another Filipino, Miss Sonia M. Zaide, a former student of the Far Eastern University, has qualified to enter the London School of Economics this year largely on the strength of an essay she had written that won third prize in the previous year's SEATO essay contest.

Miss Zaide is now at the Sorbonne to obtain a certificate in French, which is one of the requirements for her enrolment in London, according to her father, Dr. Gregorio F. Zaide, professor emeritus at F.E.U.

Miss Zaide will work for her master's degree in international relations with emphasis on international organizations in South-East Asia at the London School.

THAI TROOPS ARRIVE IN VIET-NAM

The Thai contingent of volunteer troops, comprising 84 officers and 1,672 non-commissioned officers, arrived in Viet-Nam in mid-September.

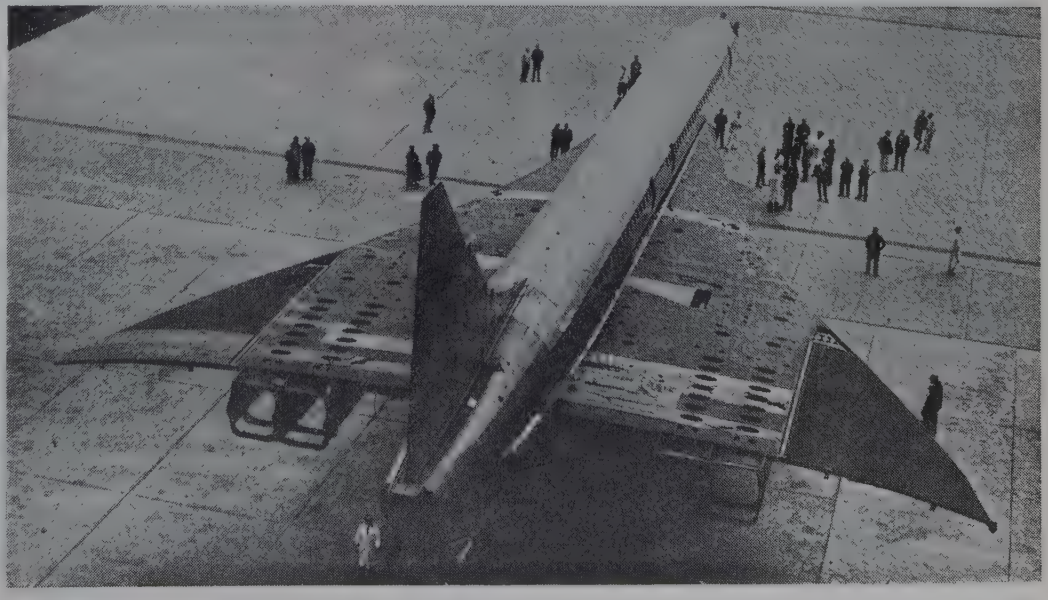
A public farewell ceremony was held for them recently at Pramane Grounds in Bangkok with the Prime Minister and Defence Minister, Field Marshal Thanom Kittikachorn presiding.

Addressing the troops Field Marshal Kittikachorn said they are leaving for a worthy cause: that is to help deter the threatening Communist danger from spreading into the country. As representatives of the whole Thai nation, the troops were asked by the Prime Minister to live up to their honour.

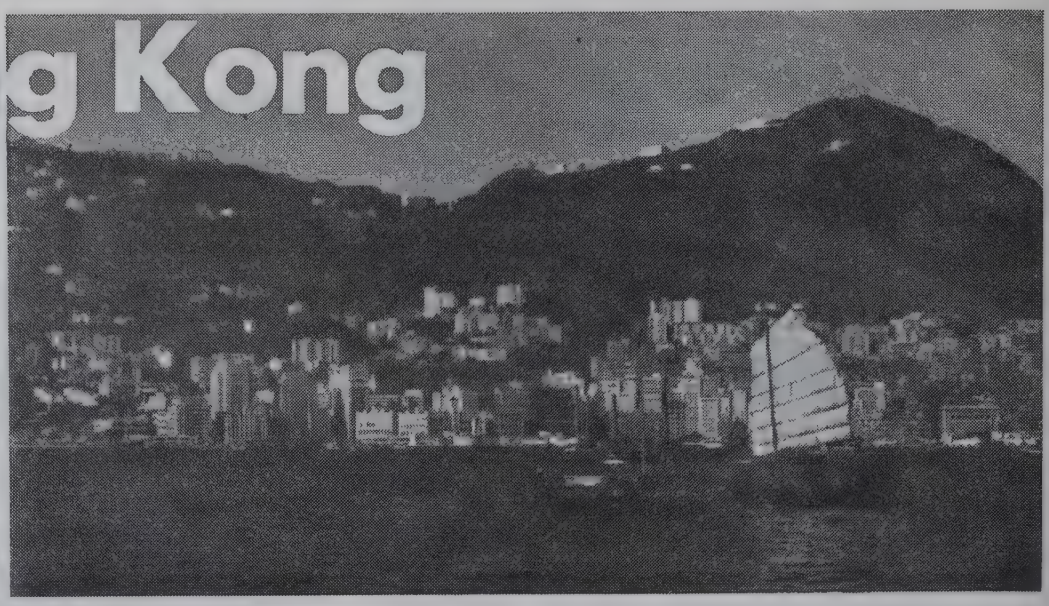
The Prime Minister later garlanded the troops and presented them with gifts.

The Concord takes shape

TECHNICIANS are pictured below grouped around the Anglo-French supersonic airliner, Concord, which is under construction at Filton in South-West England. It is being towed from its hangar for the installation of its engines and final fitting out. The Concord is due to make its maiden flight early next year and when it goes into service it will be capable of carrying 140 passengers at a cruising speed of 1,450 miles per hour.



Hong Kong



THE STRIKE THAT FAILED

ON July 17, for reasons totally unconnected with their members conditions of employment or welfare, the Communist-backed Hong Kong Seamen's Union called on all Hong Kong seamen to strike, and to refuse to transport, import and export goods in an endeavor to strangle Hong Kong trade.

The strike call has been entriely ineffectual. During the period 17 July to 31 August, 663 ocean going vessels of different nationalities sailed from Hong Kong, 264 of them manned by Hong Kong seamen. During the same period 484 vessels loaded 249,861 tons of export cargo and 571 vessels discharged 848,298 tons of import cargo.

Communist inspired reports circulating abroad that the port of Hong Kong is strike bound are demonstrably false. Ships continue to sail, fully manned and on schedule. There is ample lighterage and labour available and no delays affecting ships turn—round have occurred other than those due to bad weather (Hong Kong, in fact, still has the fastest turn-round of any port in the Far East). There is no port congestion.

Docking and repair facilities continue to operate normally, and new tonnage is under construction. During the period since the strike was called 3 vessels have changed from foreign to Hong Kong registry, raising the total of Hong Kong registered deep sea ships to 111.

The failure of the H.K.S.U. to persuade their members to answer the strike call, despite persistent subversive propaganda, has been due in large measure to the existence in Hong Kong of an effectively organised Seamen's Recruiting Office, which was set up in 1965 to check the exploitation of Hong Kong seamen by crew suppliers and middlemen.

The H.K.S.U. strongly opposed this action and called on its members to boycott the S.R.O. The seamen ignored the call and the response to the new recruiting system has been overwhelming. Although recruiting figures fell off slightly in the early days of the strike, they soon recovered, and there are now no indications that the pool of available and experienced seamen continuing to seek employment through the S.R.O. is drying up. Indeed, in the week ended September 9 (the latest for which figures are available) the number of men interviewed for posts exceeded vacancies by 117.2 per cent.

Other measures which have helped to nullify the efforts of the H.K.S.U. to damage Hong Kong's economy by disrupting the normal operation of the port have been the strengthening of marine police patrols in the harbour area and the tightening up by the shipping companies of ships' security through the posting of guards at gangways and the issue of passes only to individuals directly concerned with the running of the ships and with cargo operations.

These measures have restricted the H.K.S.U.'s direct subversive contacts with seamen to scratch meetings ashore which have failed to exert sufficient influence to induce the vast majority of Hong Kong seamen to act against what they clearly realise are their own interests. (BIS)

Incentives bill will boost economy

A NEW investment incentives bill signed by President Marcos of the Philippines earlier this month is viewed as "a benchmark" in the Government's effort to speed up the country's economic growth. The bill will open up a new era in the country's investment framework and private investors are expected to respond favourably to the opportunities and incentives under the new Act.

President Marcos said at the signing ceremony: "The need for a comprehensive framework of policies concerning private investments has been a matter of critical issue to the Government since the establishment of our Republic in 1946". The law, he added, did more than merely clarify the investment climate in the country. It sought to give Filipinos a controlling voice in directing investments in preferred areas.

Among the features of the new bill are incentive provisions for Filipinos investing in pioneer enterprises, including a grant of tax allowance on investments and exemption from the capital gains tax. Provision is also made for tax exemption on imported capital equipment and permission to employ foreigners in supervisory, technical or advisory positions.

A milestone

Considered by most economists and business leaders as a milestone in economic legislation, the new law crystallizes congressional policy on investments.

It is also the intention of the law to promote public ownership of preferred enterprises, thus enabling a greater number of people to participate in the growth of the economy.

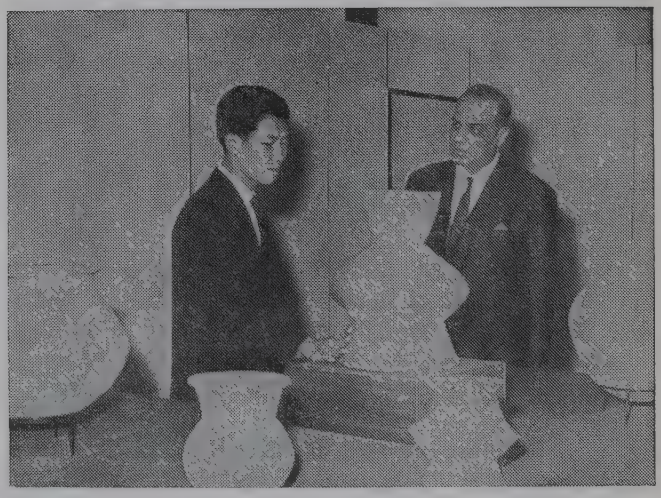
ITEMS IN BRIEF

SEATO scholar to study in Pakistan

A graduate in archaeology of the University of Fine Arts, Veerapan Maleipan, has been awarded a SEATO post-graduate scholarship to further his studies at the University of Peshawar, West Pakistan.

He is shown in the picture on the right discussing neolithic pottery at Thailand's National Museum with Mr. S.M.H. Rizvi, SEATO Director of Cultural and Economic Affairs.

Veerapan, who left for Pakistan on September 3, took part in the archaeological expedition to Ban Kao, Kanchanaburi, some years ago when these relics were found.



School for tribal children

A government provided school was recently opened for hill tribes children in the Doi Chiang Dao Hill Tribes Self-help Settlement, in Chiengmai province, Thailand.

Public Welfare Director-General, Suwan Ruenyote, officiated at the opening of the school during a recent tour of various public welfare institutions in the North.

The school, set up by the Public Welfare Department with the co-operation of the Education Ministry, plans to open classes for elementary grades. There are at present 60 children, most of them are Muser and Meo.

The hill tribes self-help settlement has attracted more members. Each family earns living in farming and raising animals and has abandoned the old way of deforestation and shifting cultivation.

The self-help settlement at Amphoe Hod, which was set up for evacuees from the flooded area above Bhumibol Dam, also got more members. At present, there are about 1,500 families of about 8,000 people. They live on mixed farming and fresh-water fishing.

Engineer on airport 'lighting' tour

An official of the Thai Department of Civil Aviation is in Australia studying airways electrical engineering with emphasis on runway and airport lighting.

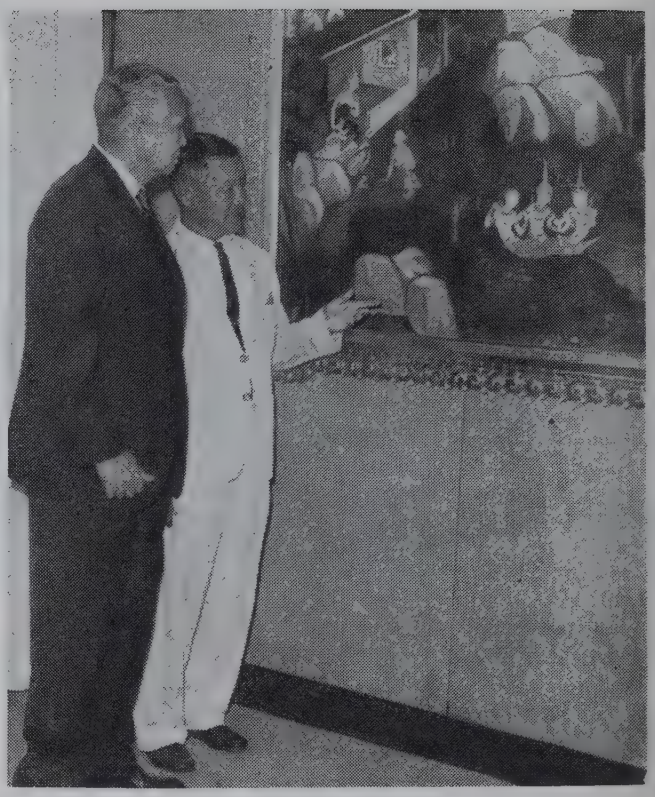
He is Flight Lieut. Dhira Phiphobmongkol of the Royal Thai Air Force Directorate of Civil Aviation. Flight-Lieut. Phiphobmongkol is in charge of electrical distribution of airways light and power for all air bases in Thailand.

His six-month training course, organised by the Australian Department of Civil Aviation, is being conducted under the Colombo Plan.

Flight-Lieut. Phiphobmongkol is particularly interested in the electrical installations of the new Melbourne airport now under construction. Built on a 5,300-acre site, the new airport will start to operate for international services in January 1969.

"Australia is progressing rapidly in civil aviation and industrially," Flight-Lieut. Phiphobmongkol said. "Thai engineers in Australia can learn the operation of ultra-modern equipment, and also find the problems and obstacles experienced by a developing country."

Flight-Lieut. Phiphobmongkol is also making frequent excursions to industrial establishments to study the manufacture of electric equipment. (AIS)



Thai gift of paintings for SEATO

A gift of two painting from the Thai Government to SEATO was handed over to Secretary-General Jesus M. Vargas, by M.C. Chotisri Devakul, Acting SEATO Council Representative for Thailand.

They are shown in the above picture with one of the paintings, a forest scene with the half-man, half-bird Kinnaree, executed in the classical style by Mr. Preung Pliensaisueb of Silpakorn University. The paintings were the Thai Government's gift to SEATO on the occasion of the opening of the new headquarters building. Other member countries also gave gifts including a sculpture "Figure and Child" by the British sculptor Bernard Meadowns, carpeting from Pakistan and wood panelling from Australia and the Philippines.

'Third Country' project' is booming

Australia is now assisting trainees from eight South and South-East Asian countries, including Thailand, to study in other countries of the

area under the novel "Third-Country Training" scheme.

The scheme is aimed primarily at the expansion of technical training facilities within South and South-East Asia.

The Australian Department of External Affairs reports that it is now participating in six Third-Country projects.

By agreement between the three countries concerned in each instance, costs of Third-Country projects are shared by the recipient government (AIS).

N.Z. PRESS CORPS VISITS THAILAND

At the beginning of September, a group of news media representatives from New Zealand spent six busy days in Thailand picking up first-hand information on the country and its people.

Included in their full schedule were trips to Khon Kaen and Nakorn Panom in the Northeast where they also visited members of the Specialist Team, Royal New Zealand Engineers, working on a road project in this strategic area.

In Bangkok they paid calls on the Minister of National Development, Mr. Pote Sarasin; the Foreign Minister, Mr. Thanat Khoman; the Chief of Staff, Air Chief Marshal Dawee Chullasapya; and SEATO-Secretary General, Jesus M. Vargas. They were also on hand for the dedication ceremony of the new SEATO headquarters building on SEATO Day.

Members of the group were: Mr. R. Burke, the Evening Post, Wellington; Mr. K. Bunson, the Otago Daily Times, Dunedin; Mr. K.H. Funnel, N.Z. Broadcasting Service, Wellington; Mr. A.M. Menzies, Christchurch Press, Christchurch; Mr. E.J. Tressider, Auckland Star, Auckland; Mr. D. Exel, N.Z. Press Association, Singapore; and Wing Commander H.K. Griffiths, Director of Public Relations, Ministry of Defence Wellington.

Industrial training for scholars

Scholars who recently arrived in Britain for courses sponsored by the Confederation of British Industries (CBI), including three from Thailand, attended the 13th annual reunion of the Organization as a curtain raiser to their studies.

The reunion in London included a number of social functions and gave the newcomers an opportunity to discuss various aspects of their training with CBI leaders and with students who have been in Britain for some time already.

The CBI's Overseas Scholarship Scheme, begun in 1950 with Government support — they share the cost — provides graduate engineers from developing countries with practical training.

Average annual intake of scholars is now nearly 100. Almost 800 have taken part to date, coming from 48 countries and representing 25 different branches of engineering.

CBI scholars training in Britain at present include the following from Thailand: Chaya Jivacate, (electrical engineer); Preecha Vunnaphoom, (aeronautical engineer); and Pichit Svasti-Salee (mechanical engineer).

LOGISTICS EXPERTS MEET

Logistics experts from Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Thailand, the United Kingdom and the United States recently assembled at the new SEATO Headquarters building to discuss problems concerning supply, equipment and logistic support facilities in relation to SEATO plans for defence of the Treaty Area. They also examined logistic problems arising from recent SEATO exercises.

The Chief, SEATO Military Planning Office, Major-General Abhichart Dhiradhamrong, formally opened the meeting. This was the seventh meeting of the Logistics Committee.

Colonel H.B. Booth-Mason, chief delegate of the United Kingdom, was Chairman of the meeting. Pictured left is a general view of the meeting at the opening session.

'Red' ring smashed in Thailand

Police in Thailand claim to have smashed the central committee of the Thai Communist Party. Twenty nine suspected Communists were arrested during dawn raids in Bangkok recently.

The Director-General of the Police Department, Gen. Prasert Rujirawong, said that five of the arrested men controlled a growing terrorist movement which, he said, had been spreading through Thailand.

Gen. Prasert said: "We have taken out the roots. We have weakened Communist operations in Thailand and we have captured the commanders of the terrorist movement."

Gen. Prasert said the five leading Communists were Chinese-Thais trained in Peking. He claimed they were in charge of supplying the estimated 2,000 terrorists in Thailand with weapons and supplies and controlling operations of the movement which had made inroads in north-eastern provinces.

Gen. Prasert identified the highest ranking members of those arrested as a Thai national of Vietnamese descent, who had been directing Communist guerilla activities in the North-East.

Schools put Asia on the map

Secondary-school children in the State of New South Wales now have the opportunity to study contemporary Asian civilisation as part of their educational curriculum.

State education authorities have devised a two-year course covering historical, geographical, cultural, social and political aspects of countries in the region stretching from West Pakistan to Japan.

The course is called "Asian Social Studies." The syllabus describes it as "the new venture in social education, seeking to fulfil the widely-expressed demand that Australian students should have a deeper knowledge of the countries of Asia".

Several hundred students are expected to sit for examinations in the course at the end of 1968. The course offers a study of civilisations of the various regions and nations of Asia for their intrinsic interest and worth, and not merely as an adjunct to Western history, the syllabus says. (AIS)

TWO TO STUDY IN U.K.

Two more Thais who have been awarded British Council Scholarships left Bangkok recently for further study in Britain. They are Nangsao Pinyo Buathong, a teacher of English at Chandra Kasem Teachers College, and Dr. Prem Brahmacupta, a Veterinary Bacteriologist at the Department of Livestock Development.

Nangsao Pinyo will be taking a course in teaching English as a foreign language at the University College of North Wales, Bangor. Dr. Prem will be studying Tropical Veterinary Medicine at the Royal School of Veterinary Studies, University of Edinburgh.

Thai scholars in Pakistan

Pictured above is a group of SEATO post-graduate scholars studying at the West Pakistan Agricultural University, Lyallpur. Two in the group, Prasan Chandranoi (second from left) and Krit Monggonpanya (third from right), have recently earned their Master's Degrees and returned to Thailand.

Mr. Krit was a lecturer at Kasetsart University and Mr. Prasan an agricultural extension official with the Rice Department when they won the SEATO scholarships in 1965.

Now, on their return, they have resumed their respective jobs while awaiting new assignments.

Three other Thais have previously studied for their Master's Degrees at the West Pakistan Agricultural University at Lyallpur under the SEATO post-graduate Scholarship Programme.

On your Bookshelf

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